

## **The Beginning of the Final Act (Matthew 24:1-11)**

### **Introduction:-**

As we come to Palm Sunday, we are introduced to the beginning of the final act of God's great drama of Redemption. But as we will discover, it is so well planned by God, that one would believe that its meaning would become evident to all, but even for the inner circle, there would be deeper truths to discover and learn, as the events of the final week would slowly unfold. Let us now follow Matthew's version of this story, in order to see something of the wider significance of this story for our vision and faith.

### **1. First, there is something about Jericho that we should know (Matthew 20:29-34).**

Before Jesus enters Jerusalem, and as He and his disciples were leaving Jericho for the long ascent to Jerusalem, they were met by two blind men who were sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was passing by, they shouted, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy upon us!" In Joshua's day God was on the march, and now God was on the march through the greater Joshua on route to destroy the work of the forces of evil (1 John 3:8).

### **2. Secondly, King Jesus finally Arrives in Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1-11).**

With this passage we encounter the beginning of the last act in the drama of the life of Jesus. And this indeed is a dramatic moment. Further, there is no question that Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem at this point was both intentional and planned, and to support this point, Matthew aligns Jesus' actions with several Old Testament passages which find their fulfilment in terms of what Jesus sought to do on this occasion (Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:25-26). But false "expectations" can lead us astray. We need to part of God's story.

### **3. Thirdly, and Finally, Jesus enters the Temple (Matthew 21:12-17).**

Matthew's version of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem concludes with Jesus' visit to the Temple, and especially to the court of the Gentiles, where the nations had an opportunity to find and call upon the true God in prayer, on the basis of Isaiah 56:7, but in the words of Jeremiah 7:11, unfortunately the Temple had been made into a den of robbers, where prayer would be made impossible. And so on this day, Palm Sunday, Jesus comes to cleanse God's Temple, and to open up the way whereby the nations can find God, and His wonderful plan for them. May the church attract rather than hinder God's love for all people today.

### **Conclusion:-**

Matthew's version of the Palm Sunday story allows us to see a wider perspective as we trace Jesus' entry into Jerusalem from Jericho to the Temple in Jerusalem. At both ends of this story, we see sight given to the blind, as well as testimony to the truth that this Jesus who enters Jerusalem is none other than the promised Messianic king, the greater Son of David, who has come to heal and save. In the light of these truths, how will we receive our coming king today? False expectations can get in the way, and lead us astray. Let our prayer be - Lord, at the end of your day, lodge with me! Make my house and life your home, that I may dwell with you forever! Amen.

