

Bible Story 52: JESUS' TRIUMPHAL ENTRY, JESUS CLEANSSES THE TEMPLE AND JESUS ANSWERS ABOUT PAYING TAXES

SCRIPTURE: Triumphal Entry: Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-44
Cleansing Temple: Mark 11:15-28; Luke 19:45-48
Paying Taxes: Matthew 22:15-22

MEMORY VERSE: Matthew 19:46

BIBLE STORY:

Jesus is at the end of His third year of ministry. The following stories tell about Jesus' last week, called the Passion Week.

SUNDAY: JESUS' TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

On Sunday, it was nearing the time of the Feast of the Passover, a Jewish religious ceremony observed once a year in Jerusalem. When Jesus came to the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of His disciples to go to the nearby village. They were to get a colt that was tied. This colt was never ridden before by anyone. The disciples obeyed and brought the colt to Jesus.

Garments were put on the colt. Then Jesus sat on the colt. A large group of people were all around Jesus. As Jesus rode the colt, some people put their garments on the ground. Others put palm tree branches on the pathway. The people shouted, "***Hosanna! Blessed is the King that comes in the name of the Lord. Glory in the highest!***"

As Jesus saw the city of Jerusalem, He wept over the city.

Some people asked, "***Who is this man?***"

The people answered, "***It is Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.***"

It was late when Jesus entered Jerusalem. So Jesus left and spent the night in Bethany, about two miles from Jerusalem.

MONDAY: JESUS CLEANSSES THE TEMPLE

On Monday morning, Jesus returned and went to the Temple in Jerusalem.

Jesus saw people exchanging money and selling animals for sacrifices in the place where the Gentiles (non Jews) were to go and worship God.

Jesus turned over the tables where money was exchanged to buy the animals for the sacrifices. Jesus drove out the animals. Then Jesus said, "***It is written, 'My house will be called a house of prayer for all people of all nations.'***"

TUESDAY: JESUS ANSWERS ABOUT PAYING TAXES

The Pharisees, religious leaders, wanted to trick Jesus. They asked Jesus, "***Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar, our ruler, or not?***"

Jesus replied, "***Show me the coin that is used for paying tax.***"

They gave Him a coin, a denarius.

Jesus asked, "***Whose picture is engraved on the coin?***"

They replied, "***Caesar's.***"

Jesus said, "***Give to Caesar what is Caesar's. Also give to God what is God's.***"

They were surprised at what Jesus said. Then they left.

PART 1: PERSONAL QUESTIONS

1. What did you learn from the story?
2. How can you apply this story to your life?

PART 2: GENERIC QUESTIONS

1. What do you like about the story?
2. What is there in the story that you do not understand?
3. Who are the main people in the story?
4. What problems did the people face?
5. How did the people face their problems?
6. How have you faced similar problems?
7. Is there someone in the story who is similar to you or who is different from you?
8. What does the story tell about God?

PART 3: SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

1. What religious ceremony did Jesus go to Jerusalem to observe?
2. What did Jesus ride into Jerusalem? How did Jesus get the colt?
3. What did the people do when Jesus rode into Jerusalem?
4. How can we show respect to Jesus? Why?
5. What did Jesus see when He went to the Temple?
6. What did Jesus do at the Temple? Why?
7. Why is it important to respect the church, the house of God?
8. What are some things we can do to respect the church, the house of God?
9. What did Jesus do as He answered the question about paying taxes? What did He say?
10. What does this teach us about paying taxes?