

# When The Cheering Stopped

World Outreach Church  
Sermon Discussion Guide  
Sunday Sermon: **April 13, 2025**



Jesus made His triumphal entry into Jerusalem on what we call “Palm Sunday”—a day the Church has celebrated for over a thousand years. All four Gospel authors give an account of this pivotal day, which takes place just a few days before Jesus’ betrayal, arrest, trial, and crucifixion. We follow the narrative from the Mount of Olives and into the Temple, where we see Jesus preaching truth, healing the sick, His adversaries trying to ensnare Him, and His disciples struggling to process all that is happening. Jesus is clearly aware of what’s coming, and we want to pay close attention to how He prepares His closest friends to be ready for the events ahead. We also want to take note of three very distinct groups of people and how they respond to Jesus: His confused but committed disciples; Jerusalem’s fickle crowds who shouted both “Hosanna” and “crucify Him!”; and Jesus’ chief antagonists—the High Priest and teachers of the Law. Many questioned Jesus’ authority then, just as people question it today. But Jesus loved His friends, and He loves us enough to give us a clear choice to believe the truth and stand with Him. We want to be careful not to treat His invitations casually. They’re precious. Jesus paid too great a price for them.

## THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS QUESTIONED

Luke 20:1–8 <sup>1</sup> *One day as he was teaching the people in the temple courts and preaching the gospel, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, together with the elders, came up to him. <sup>2</sup> “Tell us by what authority you are doing these things,” they said. “Who gave you this authority?”*

<sup>3</sup> *He replied, “I will also ask you a question. Tell me, <sup>4</sup> John’s baptism—was it from heaven, or from men?” <sup>5</sup> They discussed it among themselves and said, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will ask, ‘Why didn’t you believe him?’ <sup>6</sup> But if we say, ‘From men,’ all the people will stone us, because they are persuaded that John was a prophet.” <sup>7</sup> So they answered, “We don’t know where it was from.”*

<sup>8</sup> *Jesus said, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.”*

**Share a time when you questioned or were uncooperative with authority. What was the outcome?**

**What did you learn from the experience, and how did it shape your perspective on authority?**

## THE FAÇADE OF FAITH

Matthew 21:28–32 <sup>28</sup> *“What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’ <sup>29</sup> “I will not,” he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup> “Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but he did not go. <sup>31</sup> “Which of the two did what his father wanted?” “The first,” they answered. Jesus said to them, “**I tell you the truth**, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup> For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.*

Matthew 21:45–46 <sup>45</sup> *When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus’ parables, they knew he was talking about them. <sup>46</sup> They looked for a way to arrest him, but they were afraid of the crowd because the people held that he was a prophet.*

**Give some examples of words, thoughts, and actions that align with God and His desires for our lives.**

**What are some signs that our words, thoughts, and actions are not reflecting our commitment to God?**

## THE PIVOT: INSTRUCTIONS ON PREPAREDNESS FOR PAROUSIA

Matthew 24:36–51 <sup>36</sup> *“No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup> As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup> For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; <sup>39</sup> and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming*

of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup> Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. <sup>41</sup> Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

<sup>42</sup> **“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.** <sup>43</sup> But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup> So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

<sup>45</sup> “Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? <sup>46</sup> It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. <sup>47</sup> I tell you the truth, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. <sup>48</sup> But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, ‘My master is staying away a long time,’ <sup>49</sup> and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards. <sup>50</sup> The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. <sup>51</sup> He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

**What steps can you take to become a wiser and more faithful servant of God in your daily life?**

**In what ways can Christians cultivate spiritual awareness and discernment with things around them?**

## GUARDING YOUR HEART: MONEY & FAITHFULNESS

Luke 21:1–6 <sup>1</sup> As he looked up, **Jesus saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury.** <sup>2</sup> He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. <sup>3</sup> “I tell you the truth,” he said, “this poor widow has put in more than all the others. <sup>4</sup> All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.” <sup>5</sup> **Some of his disciples were remarking about how the temple was adorned with beautiful stones and with gifts dedicated to God. But Jesus said,** <sup>6</sup> “As for what you see here, the time will come when not one stone will be left on another; every one of them will be thrown down.”

1 Timothy 6:10 **For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.**

**Give an example of when you did something sacrificially or made a sacrifice. What did you learn from the experience?**

**What are some ways to prioritize God and His Kingdom over material possessions?**

## SPIRITUAL FORCES OF WICKEDNESS: THE PLOT AGAINST JESUS

Matthew 26:1–5 <sup>1</sup> When Jesus had finished saying all these things, he said to his disciples, <sup>2</sup> “As you know, the Passover is two days away—and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.” <sup>3</sup> Then the chief priests and the elders of the people assembled in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, <sup>4</sup> and **they plotted to arrest Jesus in some sly way and kill him.** <sup>5</sup> “But not during the Feast,” they said, “or there may be a riot among the people.”

**Have you ever experienced a spiritual force opposing Jesus or your faith? What was that like? How did you respond?**

## PRAYER

Father, thank You for Your Word—for its truth and authority. Thank You for loving us enough to lead us back to You by sending Jesus to become one of us and tell us the truth, show us the way, and provide the direction. Holy Spirit, help us to see ourselves with clarity and have the humility to repent instead of defending or justifying ourselves. May we be willing to engage in God’s purposes in this generation and not passively wait for others to do the work. May we offer ourselves—lifting our voices, raising our hands, and committing our resources—to be men and women for God’s purposes. In our lifetime and generation, may Jesus’ name be exalted, Your Kingdom extended, the Church strengthened, and the young people be given a presentation of the truth that will shape generations to come. We praise You and thank You for it. In Jesus’ name, amen.