

**Welcome to the
Common Ground Café!**



Sunday, January 6, 2019

**What Happens When Jesus Shows Up
A Study of Matthew 21:1-22**

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If you remember “revival services” from your church experiences in the past, describe the typical routine. Were you impacted by these services? How so?

Today we’re going to look for evidences of genuine revival. When God “shows up” in a life or a church, we can be sure that certain things will happen. In the sermon, Pastor Tom said that it’s always good when God shows up, but it’s not always comfortable. What does that mean?

According to Matthew 21, three things happen whenever Jesus shows up.

When Jesus Shows Up He Expects You to Come to a Decision On His Authority

Read Matthew 21:1-11.

Was it normal for Jesus to travel on a donkey?

Pastor Tom pointed out that after Absalom’s rebellion against his father, King David, David re-entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey. Do you think Jesus was symbolizing King David’s return to his throne by choosing to ride into Jerusalem in this same way?

In Matthew 21:5, what phrase emphasizes Jesus’s authority? What word or phrase emphasizes the *way* Jesus exerts his authority?

- ❖ If our only focus is on his kingship and we neglect his gentleness, what happens to our view of Jesus?
- ❖ On the other hand, if we only focus on his gentleness and neglect his kingship, what happens to our view of Jesus?

In Matthew 21:10, what word is used to describe the city’s reaction?

Pastor Tom pointed out that the word “seismic” comes from the Greek word in verse 10 that we translate as “stirred.”

- ❖ When the ground undergoes “seismic activity,” what happens?
- ❖ Does Jesus’s right to tell us how to live create a “seismic” reaction today? In what way: Negative, positive, both? Explain.

Can you share how some action, attitude, or affection (value) in your life is different today than three years ago because of Jesus’ gentle authority at work in your life?

When Jesus Shows Up He Purifies Your Worship

Read Matthew 21:12-16.

Pastor Tom pointed out that the word “prayer” in verse 13 was a broad word that included praise and adoration as well as asking God for help. In other words, the Temple was to be a place to draw near to God in joy as well as in need. If this was God’s intention for his Old Testament *Temple*, does this help us understand God’s intention for his New Testament *church*? Explain.

Pastor Tom pointed out that all this activity in the temple courts had a legitimate purpose: people needed to buy sacrificial animals and they needed to exchange pagan money for proper Temple coins so they could pay their tithe. So why was Jesus so angry?

How can we let “legitimate” or “understandable” things get in the way of making worship a priority in our lives?

Whenever Jesus shows up in a life or a church, there will be a new priority on authentic worship and prayer. What do you need to change or recommit to in 2019 to make that a new priority?

When Jesus Shows Up He Inspects Our Lives for Fruit

Read Matthew 21:18-19. Jesus never acted in peevish irritation. And in every miracle, Jesus *fixed* nature, but only in this one he *blasted* nature. So there must have been a deliberate lesson he intended to teach here. Pastor Tom said this story of the fig tree isn't about Jesus's disappointment over breakfast but rather Jesus's disappointment over the condition of his people. So, the following questions will help us understand this story.

In verse 19, we're told that when Jesus was hungry and approached the fig tree, "he found nothing on it except leaves." Do you think that seeing the leaves led him to expect fruit? What is the significance of the phrase "nothing on it except leaves"? What did Jesus hope to find in the midst of all those leaves?

The fig tree looked promising, but it gave him no fruit. Describe a "nothing but leaves" Christian or church. In other words, how can our lives *look* fruitful without actually *being* fruitful?

What "fruit" are you convinced Jesus expects from your life in 2019?



Close with praise reports and prayer requests