

Introduction:

- There is a God sized hole in all of us that is waiting, longing, desiring to be filled. Not only does man know this but God knows it as well. That is the reason for the cross! God longs to fill the emptiness that so many people feel on their insides.
- Palm Sunday is the beginning of the end of Satans authority. *"The entire city of Jerusalem was in an uproar as he entered. "Who is this?" they asked."* (Matthew 21:10, NLT) Lone Ranger Video.
- Who was that masked man? Question of authority. Can a good guy wear a mask? Can a masked man do good? Gets your attention in a sly way. Jesus wore the mask of humanity to keep His identity a secret, but now, in Mt 21, the mask comes off and He declares who He is: King of Kings! God!

I. The Stage Is Set

- A. Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem is intentionally dramatic. The mask/the mystery/ the 'do not tell who I am secret' is finished! He is now drawing attention to His messianic claim.
 1. Day one, by the grand kingly entry procession.
 - a) Riding on a colt of donkey. Why is that significant? Scripture says, "Look, your KING is coming to you...riding on a Donkeys colt." Zech 9:9
 - b) Why a colt of donkey? Seems unfair to put a big man like Jesus on a foal of a donkey. But often kings were given an unriden donkey to demonstrate worth, and humility. A King for the people. A king who will served the people!
 2. Day two, by throwing out the money changers.
 3. Day three, the cursing of the fig tree.
 4. All three accounts and speaks of and refers to the authority that Jesus has to be King.
- B. The crowds. There often seems to be confusion around the fickleness of crowd. One moment they are singing Hosanna and the next crucify. But there are two crowds at the triumphant entry of Jesus.
 1. There are the crowds from Galilee. These are the people that Jesus has lived among for the last three and half years. They know Him! They love Him. He has championed their cause and now He rides like a King into Jerusalem. They are excite for the King shall now take His place.
 - a) They throw down palm branches on the road before Him.
 - b) They throw their shirts and jackets on the road before Him.
 - c) They shout: Hosanna to the Son of David
 - (1) Hosanna means- "Save Now!"
 - (2) Son of David means - one who is to be king and of the lineage of Dave.
 - (3) Save Now Son of David!
 - d) This is a big crowd! That is coming towards the city from off of the Mount of Olives. And they are like a handful of New Yorkers in Dixie. They sound different. They look different. They act different. And the look intent on making the man in the middle King. Their presence is threatening.
 2. There are the crowds in the City. These are those who have rarely seen Jesus. They have heard of His fame. But they are not sure of His authority or what His intentions are of

coming to their city. It is not until verse 10 that we are introduced to the 'people of the city.'

- a) They are afraid of what they see because Rome will not like this crowd and talk.
- b) They are not sure why their fellow country men want Him to be king.
- c) It sounds blasphemous (calling the man God) and that is religiously offensive.
- d) They are intimidated by the sight. The city in an uproar reminds me of Mt 2:3 '*all Jerusalem was alarmed*' when the wise men came to town.

C. Jesus (in 4-9) is presenting himself as both Messiah and Son of God. This is Matthew's way of setting up the very challenge of Jesus trial to come. Are you Messiah? Are you the Son of God? Believer must see Jesus as Messiah and as Son of God.

1. You begin to see now why the city was in an uproar.
2. This trial of chapter 26 comes about by the way that Jesus is presenting himself in chapter 21...Messiah and Son of God
3. The messianic secret is no longer a secret! (inference to disciples not to tell He is Messiah)
4. His approach is not a militaristic leader but humble, peaceful suffering servant. 20:28.
5. Jesus is no longer hiding. He has come to do what He was sent to do. *"It seems that the time for concealment is over. Jesus is well aware that the decisive confrontation is about to take place in Jerusalem, and here in the capital city is the place where his messianic claim must be presented."* France, R. T. (2007). *The Gospel of Mt.* (pp. 774-775). Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publication Co.

II. Who is He? Matthew 21:10

- A. The question is a question of authority. And it is not the first time the question has been asked.
 1. Jesus comes to Jerusalem as the conquering King and in so doing He upsets the whole city of Jerusalem. 21:10 *"The entire city of Jerusalem was in an uproar when He entered!"*
 2. Jesus is there to confront darkness and sin.
 - a) The light is coming on for those living in darkness. IE. It is like your mom waking you up in the morning. Lights on! Curtain open! Its time to wake up!
 - b) Everything around Him proclaims He is the King! And this King has come to take His throne. (Authority) It is a full on frontal assault of heaven upon hell itself!
 3. Jesus' enemies are: Death, sin and grave. They all scream FINAL. Not so in Christ!
 - a) Death
 - (1) *"... He broke the power of death and illuminated the way to life and immortality through the Good News."* (2 Timothy 1:10, NLT)
 - (2) *"O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"* (1 Corinthians 15:55, NLT)

- (3) *"Because God's children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death."* (Hebrews 2:14, NLT)
- b) Sin
- (1) *"But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ."* (1 Corinthians 15:57, NLT)
- (2) *"For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ."* (Romans 5:17, NLT)
- c) Grave
- (1) *"Then death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire. This lake of fire is the second death."* (Revelation 20:14, NLT)
- (2) *"By his death, Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most Holy Place."* (Hebrews 10:20, NLT)
4. Who is He? Why is the question being asked?
- a) The question is being asked because revelation of authority is being released and proclaimed by Jesus.
- b) Where the revelation of authority begins to happen, people begin to question. Who are you? What gives you the right to exercise that authority? And who gave you that authority?
- c) Ie. I had opportunity to ask that question so many time in my rebellious days. Hall monitors, sheriffs, stadium ushers, teachers, and the list goes on. The reason we question is because we see authority in action and it is demanding something of us.
- d) Ie. It is the same question people ask today of Jesus authority all because they do not want to submit to Him. You are going to submit...willingly or forcefully...but you will submit. Do it now and you submitting willfully. Wait until after you die...and it will be forcefully. Every knee will bow.
- B. Who is He? The question is a question of authority. And it is not the first time the question has been asked. Who else asked this question? Here are others who had revelation of Jesus authority.
1. John the Baptist asked, "Are you the one?" Forerunners asks those kind of question because they are 'ahead of the game.' They have to look back to sometimes get their 'bearings.'
- a) Jesus answer with the authority of scripture, "tell him...(Is 61:1-3) the Spirit of the Lord is upon me to cause blind to see, heal the sick, cast out devils and declare freedom to the oppressed.
- b) Jesus answers Johns question with the authority of the Word. Is 35:4-6. Authority over disease and physical ailments.
2. The disciples on the Sea of Galilee, "We will drown!" Jesus calms the storm. Wet with sea spray from the wind and waves they breath hard and ask, "Who is this?" Question of

authority! Authority over wind and waves! Who has power to do this! It is a question asked by followers.

3. Pharisees ask "Who is This?" It is a question of authority posed by the opposers.
 - a) Who does He think He is, that He can forgive sin? God? YES! Lk 7:49
 - b) Who does He think He is claiming to be God? Luke 5:21
 - c) Jesus has authority over sin. Praise God!!!
4. Paul asks, "Who are you...Lord?" Acts 9:5 A question posed by a joiner!
 - a) The Lord answers, Jesus!
 - b) Mt 1:21 Call Him Jesus, for He will save His people from their sin!
- C. Pilate. Are you the King? Pilate represents the 'inquisitive'.
 1. He recognizes authority...His wife told him...don't mess with that man!
 2. He does not want to kill an innocent man with authority.
 3. He washes his hands.

III. He Is The King of Kings!

- A. Jesus Remove the veil of His authority on the way into town. No more asking, "Who Is This Man?"
 1. Jesus claimed authority upon the colt of a donkey, thus fulfilling scripture.
 2. Jesus claimed authority by letting people shout "Save us now Son of David!"
 3. Jesus claimed authority letting the children shout, Save us now Son of David, as they watched Him heal.
 4. Jesus claimed authority from Zech 9:9, "Look! Your King is Coming To You!"
- B. When revelation of Jesus is given we have to respond. Be aware, no response is a response.

Conclusion:

- Jesus is revealing His authority right now all over the world. What will you be:
 - A forerunner needing just a little more faith.
 - A follower who continues to be amazed.
 - A joiner who is convince but asks, now what.
 - An inquisitor who see authority but no ready to bow the knee
 - An opposer, who stands opposed to the presence and authority fo Christ.
- Choose you today who you will serve:
 - Bow the knee to the King and give Him your life.
 - Or be thrown before the King to never have life.
- May the God size hole in you be filled today!