

# LESSON 6

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## THE FINAL APPEALS

### SATURDAY EVENING: A BANQUET IN BETHANY

(MT. 26:6–13; MK. 14:3–9; JN. 12:2–11)

John gave a preface to “the eight days that change[d] the world.” He said that Jesus arrived in Bethany six days before the Passover (Jn. 12:1) and then said that the Triumphal Entry took place “on the next day” after the Bethany banquet (Jn. 12:12). [See *Life of Christ*, 2, pp. 237–241.]

1. What was the nard in alabaster, and what was it worth?
2. Did Mary understand the symbolism of her action? Explain.

### SUNDAY AFTERNOON: THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM

(MT. 21:1–11; MK. 11:1–11; LK. 19:29–44; JN. 12:12–19)

“On the next day” (Jn. 12:12a), perhaps late in the afternoon (see Mk. 11:11), Jesus traveled the two miles from Bethany to Jerusalem. His dramatic entrance into the city is generally called “The Triumphal Entry.” All four Gospel Accounts tell of this event, an indication of its significance. [See *Life of Christ*, 2, pp. 242–248.]

3. What was the important about Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey?
4. From what source did the words of Mt. 21:9, Mk. 11:10, and Lk. 19:38 come?
5. Why did Jesus allow this enthusiastic demonstration, when He had previously discouraged the idea of crowning Him?
6. When was Jesus’ prophecy in Lk. 19:43, 44 fulfilled?

**MONDAY: CURSING A FIG TREE,  
CLEANSING THE TEMPLE, AND CURING  
THE BLIND AND THE LAME**

**(MT. 21:12–19; MK. 11:12–19; LK. 19:45–48; 21:37, 38)**

The next morning, Jesus again traveled from Bethany to Jerusalem (Mk. 11:12a), a quieter trip this time. His destination was the temple. He had cleansed the temple at the beginning of His public ministry (Jn. 2:13–17); now He would cleanse it again. [See *Life of Christ*, 2, pp. 248–252.]

7. What did Jesus do in the temple the week before His crucifixion?
8. Why did Jesus check for figs on the fig tree even though it was not the season for figs?

**TUESDAY: “THE GREAT DAY OF QUESTIONS”**

**(MT. 21:20—25:46; MK. 11:20—13:37;  
LK. 20:1—21:36; JN. 12:20–50)**

The next morning, Jesus and the Twelve again traveled the same route. When they came to the fig tree, they found it had withered overnight. It was obvious that a miracle had occurred—a strange miracle, to be sure, but nevertheless a miracle. The disciples were amazed. [See *Life of Christ*, 2, pp. 252–268.]

9. What kind of miracle does this appear to be?
10. What application might we guess that Jesus intended to be made from His actions?

We are beginning a survey of one of the busiest, hardest, and most significant days in Jesus’ life: Tuesday during the last week of His ministry. It was a day of teaching, a day of questions, a day of conflict, and a day of rejection. (See Mt. 21:23—22:14; Mk. 11:27—12:12; Lk. 20:1–19.)

11. How did the three stories Jesus told in Mt. 21:28—22:14 answer the question posed by the chief priests, elders, and scribes about authority?
12. In addition to Jesus’ primary use of the parable of the two sons—to expose His enemies—what other practical lessons can be drawn from it?

13. Who did the vine-growers in Mt. 21:38 represent, and what inheritance did they hope to seize?

14. What lesson does the parable of the marriage feast offer Christians in Mt. 22:12–14?

Jesus' three parables had exposed the rulers and made them more determined than ever to destroy Him. We move to the next stage of the conflict of that day, a series of questions asked by His enemies—questions designed to entrap Him. (See Mt. 22:15–46; Mk. 12:13–37; Lk. 20:20–44.)

15. What are “the things that are God’s” (Mt. 22:21b) that must only be rendered to Him?

16. On what law was the Sadducees’ question based in Mk. 12:19–23?

17. How did Jesus use truths that the Sadducees accepted to prove the truth of the resurrection to them?

18. In what way do the commands Jesus quoted in Mk. 12:29–31 sum up the rest of the Law?

Christ’s enemies were through asking questions, but He was not. He turned to the Pharisees, still clustered together (Mt. 22:41), and asked, “What do you think about the Christ, whose son is He?” (Mt. 22:42a). (See Mt. 22:41–46; Mk. 12:35–37; Lk. 20:41–44.)

19. When the Pharisees answered Jesus’ question in Mt. 22:42, were they referring to Jesus as the Christ? Explain.

20. In what way did Jesus show that the Pharisees needed to expand their understanding of the Messiah?