

## The DAILY JESUS NEWS #245

### Passion Week: Sunday...Day of Acclamation and Praise

#### Jesus Ministers in the Temple Courts

MT 21.10-11, 14-17 (Parallel Text: MK 11.11)

10 When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up and asked, "Who is this?"

11 The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

14 <sup>M</sup>He went into the Temple and looked around carefully at everything. <sup>MT</sup>The blind and the lame came to him, and he healed them there.

15 But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did, and the children shouting in the temple courts, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they were fuming with indignation.

16 "Are you hearing what these children are saying?" they asked him.

"Yes," replied Jesus, "*have you never read,*

*"FROM THE LIPS OF CHILDREN AND INFANTS  
YOU, LORD, HAVE CALLED FORTH YOUR PRAISE'?" (Ps. 8.2)*

17 And <sup>M</sup>since it was already late, <sup>MT</sup>he left them and went out of the city to Bethany <sup>M</sup>with the Twelve, <sup>MT</sup>where he spent the night.

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = <sup>MT</sup>, Mark = <sup>M</sup>, Luke = <sup>L</sup>, John = <sup>J</sup>, Acts = <sup>A</sup>. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

	CONTEXT DIGEST
Location	The Temple in Jerusalem
Timeline	Early April (Month 39)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage VIII: Passion Week
	A. Sunday: Day of Acclamation and Praise
Title	4. Jesus Ministers in the Temple Courts

#### COMMENT:

It was the afternoon of Palm Sunday when Jesus arrived in Jerusalem and went straight to the Temple. This shows us that the two mile journey from Bethany to the city that should have taken less than an hour took most of the day. Such was the scale of the crowd, and the acclamation that Jesus received all along the road. No wonder the entire city of Jerusalem was shaken to it's foundations by the time Jesus arrived at the Temple.

Jesus carefully examined the Temple courts. The presence of many children, who continued their non-stop praise of Jesus, indicates that Jesus was in the outer courts--probably in the area of Solomon's Porch on the east side, that linked the Court of the Women on the north, to the Court of the Gentiles on the south side of the Temple

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complex. He found the tables of the money-changers and sellers of sacrificial animals finishing up their business, and it enraged him. He determined to clean them out first thing in the morning.

The "blind and lame"--that is, anybody with an incurable physical malady--flocked to him in the Temple and Jesus spent the afternoon and evening hours healing them. With every new miracle the children offered a fresh round of praise. It was a time of bursting joy and wonder. No doubt many of the healed went "walking and leaping and praising God" throughout the crowded Temple courts.

The Pharisees had repeatedly asked Jesus for "a sign" to confirm that he was the Messiah over the last three years. They were seeing those Messianic signs now--one after another--performed before their astonished eyes. Yet this did not lead to any change in their attitude toward Jesus. They were jealous of his gifts, and envious of his power, so they took issue with the praise of the children. Jesus simply quoted Scripture to them (Ps. 8.2) as proof of the propriety and necessity of the children's worship, and went right on ministering to the needy until nightfall.

These miracle were crucial evidence that the praise and acclaim that Jesus had been receiving all day as the long-awaited Messiah was justified. They were the same Scriptural signs of the Messiah that the Lord has offered to John the Immerser (DJN #083) two years earlier when the prophet was struggling with the difference between his own conception of the Messiah, and the reality of Jesus and his ministry. On the day of Jesus' public acceptance of the title of Messiah, these miracles gave invaluable proof that he surely was the Son of David.

Once again we need to see Jesus' heart in this scene. This was a day devoted to his praise and acclamation. It was a very long time in coming to him. Yet, we find Jesus weeping in anguish over the lostness of the city, and spending his time ministering to others on his own special day. This is the Lord of Glory. Truly, he was and is the loving servant of all. This is why the prophets predicted his miracles.

### APPLICATION:

True greatness is love that leads into ceaseless ministry. We see from Jesus that circumstances never influence a true servant's heart. Love simply serves--in every situation. It can be no other way. Jesus' example proves this point decisively.

*What circumstances do you need to overcome today to serve others in love?*

*How will you allow God's love to flow through you in ministry today? Which gifts will you use? Who will you serve?  
How will you give God the glory?*