

---

# Matthew Chapter 21

## 1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

Choose one:

- a. Have you ever known someone who liked to make a grand entrance and get lots of attention wherever they went? Describe one such entrance.

---

---

---

- b. Have you ever thrown or seen someone else throw a temper tantrum where they yelled and screamed and knocked things over? Describe one such instance.

---

---

---

## 2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

In this chapter Jesus makes His triumphant entry into Jerusalem on a donkey, then after arriving in town He goes to the temple knocking over all the tables and chairs and driving out the money changers and then He left to spend the night in Bethany. Why do you think His stay in Jerusalem was so short after such a grand entrance and big display at the temple?

---

---

What is the difference between Jesus' grand entrance and one that might be made by a movie star or celebrity of some kind?

---

---

What is the difference between Jesus destroying the temple courtyard and a little kid throwing a temper tantrum?

---

---

Why do you think Jesus was so violent? Do you think He could have made His point a bit more politely? Why/why not?

---

---

---

Do you think this is the first time Jesus has seen money-changers in the temple? Why do you think He had tolerated them before but not now?

---

---

Do you see any types of corruption in your church today that would be similar to the corruption that Jesus saw in the church of His day? Explain?

---

---

What do you think you should do about it?

---

---

**3. Applying the Chapter to Your Life (5-10 min)**

Think through the positive and negative aspects of church life today. While we live in a sinful world there will obviously be problems in our churches. What do you think you should do when you see problems in your church or in another organization you are involved with? Have a discussion with your youth group and leaders about how to know when you should be forgiving and accepting versus when to stand up and make a big deal about things that are not right.

**4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)**

- a. Pray and ask Jesus to help you know how to be a person that makes a positive difference in your church, school and family and not someone that causes unnecessary trouble. Think through the situations you are involved in and pray about your role in those situations and what you can do to help.
- b. Pray for those that tend to stir up trouble and controversy in your area. Pray that they will find peace, love and acceptance from Jesus and learn to be less hostile towards others.