

BA Devotional: Matthew 21-24

Jesus didn't ride into Jerusalem to start a revival.

He came to start a war.

In **Matthew 21**, He enters the city like a King—but not the kind of king they expected. No war horse. No armor. Just a donkey, a crowd, and prophecy being fulfilled in plain sight.

And the very first thing He does?

He walks into the temple—and **flips tables**.

“My house will be called a house of prayer, but you’ve made it a den of thieves.” (Matt. 21:13)

Jesus wasn't just clearing space. He was **reclaiming territory**.

This is what biblical masculinity looks like: not emotional outbursts, but **righteous confrontation**. Not chaos—but the kind of holy fire that refuses to let God's house be used for selfish gain.

Fruitless Faith Is Fake Faith

The next morning, Jesus curses a fig tree. It had **leaves**—the appearance of life—but no fruit. It was all show. No substance.

That's not just about a tree.

That's about **men who look spiritual but live shallow**.

You can post verses, show up at church, lead a Bible study—

But if your life doesn't produce **obedience, repentance, and self-sacrificing love**, it's just leafy religion.

“By their fruit you will recognize them.” (cf. Matt. 7:16)

Men, fruit is what matters. Not fanfare.

Truth Will Always Offend the Comfortable

In **Matthew 22**, the religious elite try to trap Jesus—throwing politics, Scripture, and hypothetical scenarios at Him.

Jesus doesn't flinch. He answers every trap with surgical truth.

“Render to Caesar what is Caesar's—and to God what is God's.”

“You're wrong, because you don't know the Scriptures or the power of God.”

“The greatest commandment? Love the Lord your God... and love your neighbor as yourself.”

He turns the spotlight around and asks *them* a question they can't answer.

Because **truth doesn't blink**—and it doesn't apologize to powerful people.

Jesus vs. the Religious Posers

In **Matthew 23**, Jesus goes off.

Seven woes. Each one a punch to the spiritual gut.

- You look clean, but you're full of death.
- You tithe, but you neglect justice and mercy.
- You shut the door of heaven in people's faces.
- You love the spotlight, but your hearts are cold.

"You're like whitewashed tombs—beautiful on the outside, but full of bones." (Matt. 23:27)

Jesus isn't being mean.

He's being **just**.

And He's telling the truth **because eternity is on the line**.

Men—this is a call to **examine yourself**, not just your Instagram presence.

Don't look holy. **Be holy**.

Wake Up—The King Is Coming Back

Matthew 24 is a wake-up call for **every man who thinks he has time**.

Jesus says this world will get worse before it gets better.

- False teachers will rise.
- Persecution will spread.
- Love will grow cold.
- People will fall away.
- The gospel will go global—and *then* the end will come.

And in the middle of that, Jesus says this:

"The one who endures to the end will be saved." (Matt. 24:13)

That's the grit Jesus is after.

Not emotion. Not performance. **Endurance**.

Not men who start strong—but men who *finish faithfully*.

Devotional Challenge

Let's cut to it.

- Where are you more focused on image than fruit?
- What tables in your life does Jesus need to flip?
- Where have you made peace with passivity and called it patience?
- What does it look like for you to endure—not just for a day, but to the end?

Final Word

Jesus didn't walk into Jerusalem to be liked.
He came to **take back what belongs to God.**

That includes **you.**

So don't settle for sanitized religion.
Don't make peace with fake holiness.
Don't coast through life thinking you've got time.

You don't.

The King is coming.

And He's not looking for polished men.
He's looking for **faithful ones.**

So repent where you've been fake.
Rebuild where you've grown lazy.
And endure when others walk away.

That's the kind of man Jesus calls His own.

