

Authorities in our Lives

- What authorities have you chosen in your life?
- What are authorities in your life that you didn't choose?
- How do you handle being under authority?
- What role does God play in your life?

1

Behold, Your King
Matthew 21:1-17

ref.ly/Mt21;niv



2

Ancient Jewish Worldview

Most important & powerful place on earth

- Jerusalem
- Temple
- "The political, economic, and religious heart of first century Judaism"

Most important time of the year

- Passover

They were waiting for the "Messiah" to come

Jesus' journey in Matthew

- Jesus' first time in Jerusalem

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Matthew 21:1-3

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. ³ If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away."

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Matthew 21:4-5

⁴ This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

⁵ "Say to Daughter Zion,
 'See, your king comes to you,
 gentle and riding on a donkey,
 and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'"

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Matthew 21:6-9

⁶ The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. ⁷ They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. ⁸ A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹ The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

"Hosanna to **the Son of David!**"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Hosanna **in the highest heaven!**"



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Matthew 21:10-11

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

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

Jesus intentionally came like the promised Messiah (Savior from God), like a reigning king
From obscurity
...who had to borrow a colt!

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Matthew 21:12-13

¹² Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. ¹³ "It is written," he said to them, "My house will be called a house of prayer, but you are making it 'a den of robbers.'"

Jesus entered the temple (most important place)

→ Deliberately confronting the powerful

Claiming authority over the worship of God

"I tell you that something greater than the temple is here." *Matthew 12:6*

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Matthew 21:14-15

¹⁴ The blind and the lame came to him at the temple and he healed them. 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 indignant.

They were angry that Jesus was claiming authority **over the temple**
And that Jesus was accepting praise **in the temple**

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An accusation Matthew 21:16-17

¹⁶ "Do you hear what these children are saying?" they asked him. An accusation of willful blindness "Yes," replied Jesus, "have you never read, "From the lips of children and infants you, Lord, have called forth your praise?" ¹⁷ And he left them and went out of the city to Bethany, where he spent the night.

Rather than resolve their concerns, Jesus stirred up and accepted this praise **as God**

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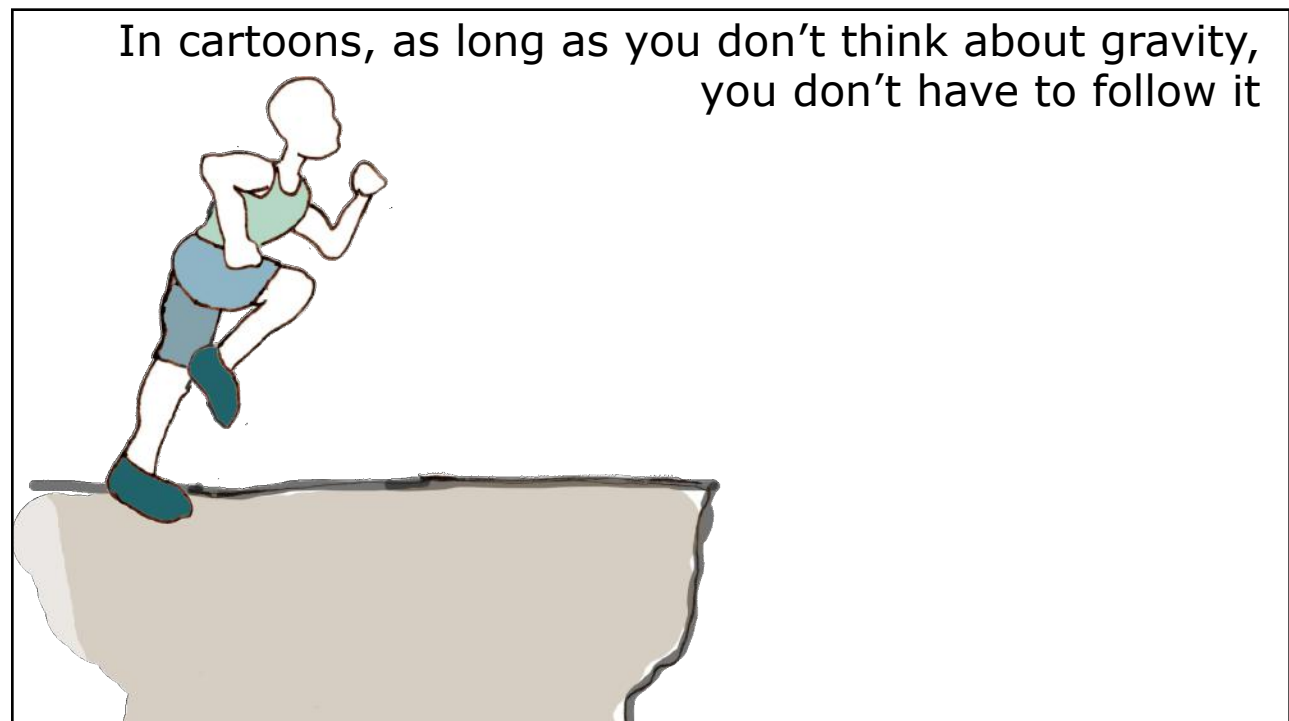
Who is He?

Jesus came humbly yet boldly
to the place of highest power
and claimed the right to rule over all

Jesus comes humbly yet boldly
to each of us
and claims the right to rule over all

His suffering and death proved His love
His resurrection proved His authority

11



12

Sometimes

Sometimes we act as if...

- Dealing with God is optional
 - We think: If we ignore Him, He'll ignore us
- He is fooled by nice words and no action
- As long as our consciences don't bother us (too much), we think we are fine

But...

"My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. **It is the Lord who judges me.**"

1 Corinthians 4:4

13

Jesus claims the right **to rule** and to judge

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple **must deny themselves** and take up their cross **and follow me**. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. *Matthew 16:24-25*

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Jesus claims the right to rule and **to judge**

Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. **Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.**

Hebrews 4:13

Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes. **He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of the heart.** At that time each will receive their praise from God. *1 Corinthians 4:5*

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Who is He?

Jesus comes humbly yet boldly
to each of us
and claims the right to rule over all

The most important question for each of us:
Who is Jesus?

Lord

~~Liar~~

~~Lunatic~~

~~Legend~~

~~Irrelevant~~

~~Distant & Distracted~~

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Application

Decide what you'll do with Jesus

- He is arguably the best human being
- His resurrection is an astounding historical reality (the best explanation for the facts)
- He claims the right to rule over every life
- Will you...
 - Walk away?
 - Deny His authority?
 - Bow to Him as King?

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Application

Submit to Jesus as God

- He comes to us and claims highest authority
- Over each part of our lives...step by step
 - Money: rich young ruler
 - Injustice: Philemon
 - Suffering: Job
 - Relationships: disciples must love Jesus more than parents, spouse, kids, ...
 - Time / Emotions / Sexuality / Dreams / ...
- **As an expression of His love!**

18

There can be no better king!

- Jesus fully submitted to His Father
- In humility, He made Himself nothing
- Then died in our place, being rejected for us
- Now He gives us the riches of His reward
- All as an expression of His love for us
- He will return to reign and to judge
- **Will you humbly bow before this king in submission to Him?**

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Who is He?

**Jesus comes humbly yet boldly
to each of us
and claims the right to rule over all**

The most important questions for each of us:

Who is Jesus?

And will we worship and submit to Him?

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