

/We will now begin the fifteenth lecture on the gospel of Matthew. /The main text is Matthew chapter 21. /The title of the text is "The Donkey."

/First, Jesus entered on a donkey. /Verses 1-11. /Second, Jesus made the temple clean. /Verses 12-17. /Third, Jesus curses the fig tree. /Verses 18-22.

/Fourth, the authority of Jesus questioned. /Verses 23-27. /Fifth, the parable of the two sons. /Verses 28-32. /Sixth, the parable of the tenants. /Verses 33-46.

/Read 21:1-2. /As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, 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.

/Bethphage was a village located at the foot of the Mount of Olives. /It was a village near Bethany. /Here, the Lord sent two of His disciples to the village on the opposite side. /Jesus said, "You will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her."

/Then Jesus said, "Untie them and bring them to me." /He said that if anyone were to ask, "Why are you untying the donkey?" then they were to answer, "the Lord needs them." /In this way, God prepared everything in advance what Jesus needed.

/Our Lord knew the faith of the donkeys' owner. /The donkeys' owner had the faith to offer his donkeys to Jesus. /The owner's name is not mentioned here.

/Still, the faith of this man in offering his donkeys to Jesus is commendable faith. /When our Lord tells us that He needs something, we must also immediately offer it to Him. /Joseph of Arimathea was a rich man and elderly. /He was a member of the Council.

/He had a personal tomb ready for his own death. /He offered his tomb to Jesus. /When we give to the Lord when we are given opportunities to do so, we will be blessed.

/Verses 4-5. /This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: "Say to the Daughter of Zion, 'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'"

/Jesus rode the donkey into Jerusalem. /There were three meanings in this. /First, it was to fulfill what was written in Zechariah 9:9. /Zechariah 9:9 prophesied that Jesus would enter on a donkey.

/Second, Jesus was humble. /Jesus entered into Jerusalem on a feeble and shabby donkey. /Third, Jesus was teaching that He is the King of peace. /Jesus is not a King of wars, but a King of peace.

/Horses symbolize war. /However, Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey.

/Verse 6. /The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them.

/A great number of people welcomed Jesus when He entered on a donkey. /The crowd laid their cloaks on the road. /Then they praised Jesus by saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" /They received Jesus as King. /2 Kings 9:13.

/"Hosanna" is an expression of "Save, we pray." /"Jesus, save us!" /Calling Jesus the "Son of David" meant that Jesus was Christ.

/Verses 10-11. /When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?" The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

/The crowd also said, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."  
/Deuteronomy 18:15. /People said, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee." /Deuteronomy 18:15. /Jesus came as Prophet, Priest, and King.

/Jesus is the spiritual King. /He is King of the universe. /He is King of peace. /He is King of truth. /Jesus built the kingdom of heaven. /Today's churches are Christ's kingdom. /It is the kingdom of truth. /We are people of that kingdom.

/Verse 12. /Jesus entered the temple area 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.

/When Jesus entered the temple, there were many people changing money and selling doves. /Jesus made the temple clean. /Jesus made the temple clean twice. /The first instance is told in John 2:13-16.

/Jesus did this when He began to do the holy work of God. /In today's text, it was Jesus' second time making the temple clean. /Why did Jesus make the temple clean? /There were money changers in the temple.

/In society, people used denarii as the main currency /In the temple, shekels were used as currency. /The face of Emperor Caesar was on a denarius. /Therefore, the denarii were considered unclean.

/Thus, people exchanged denarii for shekels in the temple so that they could give the money to God. /During exchanges, the priests kept some money for themselves. /Then they sold ox or sheep. /They considered animals sold in the marketplaces unclean.

/Therefore, the priests made sure that people made offerings in the temple with separate animals that they raised. /Then the priests sold these animals at high prices. /However, God said that it was acceptable as long as the animal was without defect. /Leviticus 5:15. /Leviticus 6:6.

/Also, every tenth animal to pass under a shepherd's rod was considered the tithe. /Leviticus 27:32-33. /Deuteronomy 14:24-26. /The priests changed things and secretly took a lot of money.

/This was a result of the Pharisees and the priests' religious formalism and greediness. /We must get rid of greed. /We must worship in spirit and in truth. /John 4:24.

/Verse 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 said that His house was a house of prayer. /Isaiah 56:7. /Here, "My house" means the church. /We must pray in secret before God. /We must pray in small rooms. /The temple and the church are places for prayer. /Ephesians 6:18.

/The temple is not a place of business. /Therefore, we must get rid of greed. /We must not sell and trade in the church.

/Jesus also said that they had made the temple a "den of robbers." /This means that it was like a den where robbers lived. /The priests made the temple into an institution that satisfied their greed.

/Verse 14. /The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them.

/Jesus healed many who were sick. /He had mercy on the sick.

/Verse 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 area, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they were indignant.

/The chief priests and the teachers of the law were jealous of Jesus and were indignant. /They rebuked Jesus.

/Then Jesus quoted Psalm 8:2. /Jesus said, "From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise."

/Verse 17. /And he left them and went out of the city to Bethany, where he spent the night.

/Jesus rested in the city of Bethany. /Bethany is located about two kilometers from Jerusalem. /It is about two kilometers. /About two kilometers.

/Verse 18. /Early in the morning, as he was on his way back to the city, he was hungry.

/Jesus came in the form of man so He got hungry when He did not eat. /Jesus had to sleep, and because He came in the form of man, He hurt deeply when He was nailed to the cross. /Jesus was also thirsty.

/Verse 19. /Seeing a fig tree by the road, he went up to it but found nothing on it except leaves. Then he said to it, "May you never bear fruit again!" Immediately the tree withered.

/There was a fig tree by the road. /However, there was no fruit. /Mark 12:13. /It was not yet fig season. /This means that it was not yet time for harvest.

/It is obvious that a tree must bear fruit before the time of harvest. /This tree had no fruit from the beginning despite the fact that it would soon be time for harvest. /Therefore, Jesus cursed the fig tree.

/The fig tree withered. /Here the fig tree symbolizes the Jewish community. /Jeremiah 24:2-5. /Judaism consists of many rituals. /Yet, there is no fruit.

/The tree had an abundance of leaves. /Judaism is outwardly grand. /Yet, there is no real fruit. /Then what is the fruit that the Lord asks of? /First is the fruit of morals. /It is the fruit of righteousness and truth. /Ephesians 5:9.

/Second is the nine types of fruit of the Holy Spirit. /Galatians 5:22-23. /Third is the fruit of knowledge. /Colossians 3:10. /We must learn about the truth and follow after the truth.

/Fourth is the fruit of ability. /Philippians 3:10. /It is to participate in the sufferings of Jesus and also to participate in the power of Jesus.

/Verse 20. /When the disciples saw this, they were amazed. "How did the fig tree wither so quickly?" they asked.

/Mark 11:20-21. /The fig tree withered on the second day. /The fig tree that was cursed by Jesus had dried up. /Mark saw on the second day that the fig tree had withered. /Then Peter asked Jesus a question.

/Verse 21. /Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and it will be done.

/The Lord said to have faith that does not doubt. /Then there will be great works such as the withering of the fig tree. /Jesus said that with faith, we could tell a mountain to go throw itself into the sea and it will be done.

/Faith comes from hearing the Word. /Romans 10:17. /When we hear the Word of God and hear the gospel, we will gain faith. /Complete faith is to trust God's Word with our whole hearts. /Then it is to put to action and obey the Word with our bodies. /James 2:22.

/What is true faith? /What is complete faith? /It is to accept in our hearts God's Word, /and it is to obey God's Word. /Jesus said that even a mountain would throw itself into

the sea.

/When we believe and obey God's Word, then great things will happen. /God can solve even the biggest problems we may have.

/Verse 22. /If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."

/When we pray, we must pray prayers that God will answer. /We must pray according to the will of God. /We must not pray with greed. /James 4:3.

/Verse 23. /Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. "By what authority are you doing these things?" they asked. "And who gave you this authority?"

/The chief priests questioned Jesus while He taught in the temple. /They argued with Jesus about where He received His authority. /They meant that they did not give Jesus authority to teach.

/At that time there was a council. /There were about seventy members in the council. /It was the high Jewish court of justice. /They delegated all religious authority at its religious meetings. /They had not given Jesus any religious authority.

/Therefore, when Jesus began to use His authority, the priests criticized Him. /Jesus' authority came from the authority that God gave Him. /Yet, the Pharisees attacked Jesus.

/Verse 24. /Jesus replied, "I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

/Jesus said that He would ask one question. /He asked, "John's baptism—where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or from men?" /Then the Pharisees talked among themselves.

/They said, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will ask, 'Then why didn't you believe him?' /But if we say, 'From men'-- we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet."

/Thus, the Pharisees and the chief priests answered, "We don't know." /This was a lie. /This was a political answer. /They knew that whatever answer they gave would be disadvantageous to them, so they used this tactic.

/This shows that the chief priests and elders threw away their conscience. /They threw away their faith. /1 Timothy 1:19. /They needed to answer with either a "yes" or a "no". /Then they needed to follow after what was right.

/Yet, these people did not use their conscience. /Then Jesus replied. /Jesus said, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things."

/Jesus did not say that He did not know. /Jesus knew. /Yet, there was no need for the Lord to teach these people. /Therefore, Jesus said that He would not teach them.

/Jesus did not lie. /He was truthful. /These people did not have the right to receive the truth. /The chief priests and elders did not have the right to receive the truth. /Here, Jesus did not throw pearls at pigs.

/We will continue with the lecture on verses 28-30. /Read. /"What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work today in the vineyard.' 'I will not,' he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. 'Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, 'I will, sir,' but he did not go.

/Jesus gave a parable about two sons. /There was an elder son and a younger son. /A man told his elder son to "go and work today in the vineyard." /The elder son said at first that he would go. /Then he did not go.

/Then the second son first said that he would not go. /Yet, he went later. /The person who said he would go but did not go is not a good person. /He seemed faithful at first. /It seemed that the elder son was faithful.

/Yet, the elder son fell deep into religious rituals. /He was caught up in religious rituals and greed and educational authority just like the Pharisees and the chief priests. /The Pharisees and chief priests were greatly involved in performing religious rituals. /They were caught up in their greed.

/However, the second son later repented and obeyed. /He thought of his father. /He respected his father. /He repented. /In the same way, the tax collectors and prostitutes repented first. /The Gentiles repented first.

/We must not disobey after we first say that we will do our best. /It is more important for one to be without faith and in the world, and then later repent and return to God.

/It is more important for a person to believe later than at the beginning. /Obedience is important. /We also must repent and obey.

/Verse 32. /For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

/John the Baptist taught the way of righteousness. /However, the religious Jewish believers and the Pharisees did not believe. /The chief priests also did not believe.

/However, the tax collectors and prostitutes repented and believed. /The Gentiles repented and believed. /It is important that we also repent and return before the Lord.

/Verses 33-36. /"Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and went away on a journey. When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit. "The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way.

/This is a parable about farmers. /A man made a vineyard. /Then he sent servants to work on it. /The farmers worked in the vineyard. /Then the landowner sent his servants so that they could receive their pay.

/Here the "landowner" is God. /The "vineyard" is the church. /To "put a wall around it" means that God protects the church. /"Built a watchtower" means that the Lord keeps out enemies. /God protected the church.

/Here "a journey" symbolizes heaven. /The "farmers" represent the Israelites. /It represents Jews. /God demanded fruit from the farmers. /God demands fruit of faith.

/Here, the "servants" symbolize prophets. /The "farmers" represent Jews. /The servants symbolize the prophets that God sent. /God continuously sent prophets since the Old Testament times.

/However, the Israelites tortured the prophets. /They rejected the prophets. /They did not learn the truth from the prophets. /They persecuted the prophets. /Therefore, the landowner, God, said that he would send his Son.

/The "son" symbolizes Jesus. /God thought the farmers would respect Jesus.

/Verse 38. /"But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, 'This is the heir. Come, let's kill him and take his inheritance.'

/The farmers tried to kill the son. /They said, "This is the heir. Come, let's kill him and take his inheritance." /Then what would the owner of the vineyard do? /The farmers were thieves. /They were murderers. /They were ungrateful men.

/They are unbelievers. /They are evil people who persecute the prophets, God's servants. /They did not give fruit offerings to God. /Then these Pharisees and chief priests made Jesus die on the cross.

/Therefore, God will judge them. /Then God will give the vineyard to other people. /Now, the Gentiles come to church. /The Gentiles believe in Jesus and receive salvation.

/Then God judges those who did not believe in God and who persecuted God's servants. / Those who did not believe in Jesus and killed Him will be judged.

/Verse 42. /Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: "'The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes'?"

/Jesus quoted Psalm 118:22. /The "builders" are the religious Jewish believers. /They are the chief priests and scribes. /They are the Pharisees. /These people rejected the stone.

/The "stone" symbolizes Jesus. /However, Jesus later became the cornerstone. /Jesus became the essential and foundational stone. /Jesus became the cornerstone of the spiritual temple.

/The chief priests and Pharisees had Jesus nailed to the cross. /They threw Jesus out saying He was good for nothing. /However, God used Jesus as the foundational stone for the spiritual temple.

/Then through Jesus we were saved. /Jesus is the cornerstone. /Jesus is the foundational stone. /Jesus is the living stone and the stone of salvation. /We have been saved through Jesus.

/Verse 43. /"Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.

/Jesus said, "The kingdom of God will be taken away from you." /This means that the kingdom of God would be taken away from the Pharisees and chief priests. /Then instead it would be given to the people who produce fruit.

/Verse 44. /He who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, but he on whom it falls will be crushed."

/The "stone" symbolizes Jesus. /Those who stand against Jesus will be broken to pieces and destroyed. /Jesus, the stone, will judge. /Those who stand against the church will be judged.

/Verse 45. /When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus' parables, they knew he was talking about them.

/The chief priests and Pharisees did not think to repent. /They needed to listen to Jesus and repent, but they did not. /Instead, they tried to arrest Jesus and kill Him.

/Verse 46. /They looked for a way to arrest him, but they were afraid of the crowd because the people held that he was a prophet.

/The chief priests and Pharisees tried to arrest Jesus but couldn't because they were afraid of the people. /Many people knew Jesus as a prophet. /However, the chief priests and Pharisees did not believe in Jesus and rejected Him.



/We will continue with the lecture on Matthew chapter 22. /The title is “The Wedding Banquet.”

/First, guests were invited to the wedding banquet. /Verses 1-14. /Second, what belongs to Caesar and what belongs to God. /Verses 15-22. /Third, questions and answers about the resurrection. /Verses 23-33. /Fourth, questions and answers about the greatest commandment. /Verses 34-46.

/Read verses 1-3. /Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come.

/Here the kingdom of heaven refers to the church in the New Testament times. /The gospel movement was enjoyed like wedding banquets in the New Testament times. /There are many types of banquets in this world. /There are banquets in celebration of turning seventy years old, or sixty years old, and even for turning one year old.

/Still, the greatest banquet is the wedding banquet. /There was a king whose son had a wedding banquet. /The king made all the preparations. /It says that the king caught oxen and fattened cattle for the banquet. /The banquet was flawless.

/This implies that Jesus completed perfect atonement through the redemption of the cross. /Jesus kept all that was written in the Old and New Testaments. /Jesus completely submitted before God. /Jesus completed righteousness. /Jesus made righteousness complete.

/Therefore, whoever believes in Jesus becomes righteous and receives salvation. /Song of Songs 2:4. /John 2:1-11. /John 2:1-11/ /Isaiah 55:1. /Jesus completed righteousness. /He accomplished righteousness. /John 19:30. /Romans 8:32.

/However, people did not want to attend the wedding banquet. /This means that they refused to believe in Jesus. /Therefore, the king sent out servants and invited people from all around.

/Verse 5. /"But they paid no attention and went off-- one to his field, another to his business.

/One man went off to his field. /One man went to his business. /Luke 14:16-20. /Here, “one to his field” refers to materialism. /Matthew 4:4. /Matthew 19:16-26. /Luke 12:16.

/When this man went to his field, it means that he went to chase after money. /This man did not believe in Jesus but went to serve money as his idol. /His money became his god. /Therefore, he was unable to follow Jesus.

/The second man went to his business. /Here, business means that he did not believe in Jesus because of his work. /His life was centered on business and work. /Luke 14:19.

/James 4:13. /Ecclesiastes 2:14.

/In Luke 14:16, it says that one man said he bought five yoke of oxen. /This is the same as the man who went after his business. /His life centered on business. /Then one man said he could not attend the banquet because he had just gotten married.

/Luke chapter 14 says that one man could not attend the banquet because he had just gotten married. /We can get married. /However, this man was hedonic and perverse and corrupt. /Luke 14:20. /2 Timothy 3:1-4.

/Similarly, these people were absorbed in the world and refused to attend the banquet. /The king said to come freely to the wedding banquet. /Isaiah 55:1.

/These people were offered free grace and salvation, yet they did not accept invitations of the king. /They did not accept invitations from God.

/Verse 6. /The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them.

/Then the rest seized the servants, mistreated them and killed them. /This is the same as persecuting the prophets and the apostles. /They persecuted those who preach the gospel. /When evangelists preach the gospel, these people persecute them.

/Verse 7. /The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.

/Here the “king” symbolizes God. /The king sends his army and judges the people. /The king sends the Gentile army who became the enemy. /If the gospel is not accepted, God will bring about wars and judge. /In AD 70, the Romans invaded Jerusalem and set it on fire.

/Verses 8-9. /"Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.'

/Here, the “street corners” refer to the Gentiles. /The Pharisees and chief priests rejected Jesus. /There were also many Jews who rejected Jesus.

/Thus, the king said to go to foreign lands and invite people to the banquet of salvation. / This means that there will be more Gentiles who will come to believe in Jesus.

/Verse 10. /So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

/Luke 14:21. /The king said that anyone could come. /Even the poor, the sick, the blind, and others were invited. /These people came, extremely grateful and deeply moved. /They sincerely repented and came before God. /These people were the first to enter

heaven.

/Verses 11-12. /"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. 'Friend,' he asked, 'how did you get in here without wedding clothes?' The man was speechless.

/Here, "wedding clothes" is the clothing of righteousness of believing in Jesus. /Romans 13:11-14. /We must wear the clothing of Jesus Christ.

/To reject wearing wedding clothes is to refuse to believe in Jesus. /Such people are those who do not wear the clothing of righteousness of Jesus. /When we believe in Jesus, we are clothed in righteousness.

/Verse 13. /"Then the king told the attendants, 'Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

/The man who entered without wearing wedding clothes is one who did not believe in Jesus. /There was no other choice but for the man to go to hell. /Those who do not believe in Jesus will be judged in eternal darkness. /2 Timothy 3:4.

/Verse 14. /"For many are invited, but few are chosen."

/Here, the "invited" refers to the general invitation of salvation. /It refers to those who have been evangelized. /This is to be summoned externally. /This is to invite people to externally believe in Jesus.

/However, those who are really chosen are few. /Only the chosen can be believers of Jesus. /They are the children of God. /They have been called internally. /God calls us through the Holy Spirit.

/The Holy Spirit allows us to believe in Jesus through the gospel. /Those who are chosen believe in Jesus.

/Here we will conclude the fifteenth lecture on the gospel of Matthew. /Thank you.