

Matthew 21.1-9

Luke 19.39-44

Matthew 21.10-17

The day Jesus came to church . . .

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. “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.’” (Matthew 21.12-13)

- Jesus came looking for a house of prayer for the nations—but didn’t find it (Matthew 21.13; Isaiah 56.7).
- He came looking for spiritual fruit—but found nothing he could commend (Matthew 21.43; cf. Matthew 3.8-10).

- He came looking for people who were opening the door of the kingdom of heaven to others– but found no one who was bringing people into His kingdom (Matthew 23.13).
- He came looking for those who longed to be as close to him as he wanted to be close to them– but found no one who reciprocated his desire (Matthew 23.37).

What does Jesus look for when he goes to church?

- He watches and evaluates what people give in their offering (Luke 21.1-4).
- He looks to see who is serving and doing something for which he can say, "Well done, good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25.14-23).

- He looks to see whether we are opening the door of salvation and welcoming strangers from other backgrounds and ethnicities, and whether we are making disciples of all nations as he commanded us to do (Mark 11.17; cf. Isaiah 56.3, 7; Matthew 28.19-20).
- He looks to see how far out of our way we are going to minister to those who are forgotten, suffering, homeless, or in prison. (Matthew 25.34-36).

- He is looking to see whether we are making true disciples or just maintaining our traditions and doing what we have always done (Matthew 21.15; cf. Mark 7.6-8, 13).
- He looks to see who is a sheep (those submitted to his will and following his voice, cf. John 12.26) and who is a goat (Matthew 25.21-23).
- He looks to see who is hungry for fellowship with him, who longs to be in his presence (Matthew 23.37; cf. John 14.23).

We must remember—

- God is always at work pursuing His mission and His purposes according to His timeline.
- In every generation, He is looking for those who share His heart, prioritize His work, and partner with Him to fulfill His purposes.
- Every prophetic word in the Bible will be fulfilled. We need to pay attention and build our lives around His plan—lest we end up on the wrong side of history and eternity.