

How to Prepare to Reign with Christ

International Bible Lesson

Matthew 21:1-14

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“The disciples went, and did as Jesus commanded them”
(Matthew 21:6—KJV).

“The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them”
(Matthew 21:6—NRSV).

Before Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, He sent two of His disciples into a nearby village to find a donkey for Him to ride in His processional into the city. These disciples did exactly as Jesus directed them, and He entered the city to the praises of the crowds who cheered, “Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord” (Matthew 21:9). We often think of the humble origins of Jesus’ first disciples and how the Holy Spirit transformed them on the Day of Pentecost into courageous witnesses for their resurrected Lord and Savior. Of course, the Holy Spirit made the real difference in their lives, but when we think of the successful eleven out of twelve of Jesus’ first disciples we need to remember how they developed the habit of going and doing exactly what Jesus told them to do. Though it may have sounded impossible, these disciples obeyed Jesus and fed more than five thousand people with a couple of fishes and a five loaves of bread (see Matthew 14:15-22). A short time later, Peter walked on water as long as he kept his eyes on Jesus (Matthew 14:23-31). Jesus’ followers will have no earthly idea of what God can accomplish in their lives until they begin to make a habit of doing as Jesus’ first disciples did. If believers will do as the Bible teaches, do as Jesus directs, do as the Holy Spirit empowers, they will look back upon achievements greater than their aspirations. More importantly, Jesus will say to them, “Well done, you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things” (Matthew 25:21).

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Thinking Further

1. Why do you think God inspired many different people in the Hebrew Scriptures to prophecy the coming of the Messiah?

2. What, if any, reason did Jesus give His two disciples when He told them to go into the village to get the donkey and the colt?

3. How did the crowds address Jesus when they cheered for Him as He entered the city? How did people in the city describe who Jesus was?

4. Where did Jesus go first when He entered the city? What did He do there?

5. What did Jesus say the temple should be called? Should this name be applied to churches today? How well does this name describe your church: too much, too little, just right?