

The Son of David in His Temple

Matthew 21–23

What We Found

- Jesus staged Zechariah 9:9 at the gates: the humble King on a donkey, greeted with Psalm 118's Hosanna. The Son of David list completed itself: the blind, a Canaanite mother, beggars, crowds, and children, never the experts. The small see.
- The temple cleansing spliced Isaiah's house of prayer for all peoples with Jeremiah's den of robbers: a mission failed and a judgment announced, with the fruitless fig tree as its sign.
- In the tenants parable, Jesus narrated his own death to the men planning it, and the rejected stone became the cornerstone.
- Psalm 110 answered whose son the Christ is: David's son according to the flesh, David's Lord according to his divinity. Only the Incarnation holds both, and no one could answer him a word.
- Jesus affirmed Moses' seat while condemning the men on it: the authority of an office does not depend on the holiness of its holders, a distinction we first met with Peter's keys.
- "Call no man father" targets the appetite for honor, not the vocabulary of love: Stephen, John, and Paul all claim or address spiritual fathers, and Paul tells the Corinthians that he became their father in Christ Jesus through the Gospel (1 Cor 4:15). The warning's true edge cuts clericalism, and priests are commanded to be servants.

Voices of the Church

Voices of the Church: St. Andrew of Crete (Oration for Palm Sunday)

Let us spread before Christ not garments and branches but ourselves: lay down our own selves like cloaks before his feet, that he may ride into our souls as he rode into Jerusalem.

Voices of the Church: St. Augustine (Expositions on the Psalms)

As man, Christ is David's son; as God, David's Lord. They could not answer because they would not confess both; the Church answers daily.

Voices of the Church: St. John Chrysostom (Homilies on Matthew)

Christ's severest words fall not on ignorance but on display. The disease is not the seat of Moses but the love of the seat; not the title but the appetite for it.

Live It This Week

- Pray Psalm 110 once this week and let its first verse carry the weight it carried in the temple courts.
- Perform one act of hidden honor: give away a seat, a credit, a salutation you could have kept.
- Pray for your priests by name, that they be the fathers the Gospel demands: the servants of all.

Scripture Memory

Matthew 22:37 (RSV2CE): *“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.”*

Before Next Session

Read Matthew 24–25: the last discourse, on the end of the temple and the end of the age.

Catechism References

CCC 559–560 · CCC 583–586 · CCC 439