

Lip Service  
Matthew 21:28-46

Review:

1. Jesus wants our actions of loyalty and obedience to line up with our words of faith
2. Jesus calls us to bear the fruit of righteousness and justice, of repentance and faith
3. The only way to bear fruit for Christ is to fall on Him, allowing Him to shatter our sinful past and remake us in His image

Reflect:

1. What actions or habits in your life don't line up with your profession of faith? In what ways do you need to be broken before Jesus?
2. Of what accomplishments or abilities or deeds are you tempted to be proud? How can you lay them at the feet of Christ, giving Him the glory for who you are and what you have?
3. What particular sort of fruit do you think God is calling you to bear in your life? What steps can you take this week to move forward in those directions?

Go further: Read Psalm 118

1. What reason does the Psalmist give in verses 1 and 29 for everyone to give thanks to God?
2. What three groups of people does the psalmist call to give thanks to God in verses 2-4?
3. Why does the psalmist call on the Lord in verse 5? How did the Lord answer his prayers?
4. How does the psalmist describe his relationship with God in verse 6? What effect does this sort of relationship have on his fears?
5. What sources of help does the psalmist identify in verse 7? What does he expect his helpers to do to his enemies?
6. In verses 8 and 9, the psalmist says that trusting in the Lord is preferable to what two alternatives?
7. Who does the psalmist say has surrounded him in verses 10-12? What does he say he will do to them? How will he accomplish this?
8. In verse 13, how does the psalmist describe the way he is attacked? What does he say the Lord did for him?
9. In what three ways does verse 14 describe the psalmist's relationship with the Lord?
10. What does verse 15 say will happen in the tents, the homes of the righteous?
11. What do verses 15 and 16 say about the Lord's right hand?
12. What two things does the psalmist promise to do in verse 17?
13. What does the psalmist say in verse 18 that the Lord has done to him? How has the Lord protected him at the same time?
14. What does the psalmist ask God to do in verse 19? What two things does the psalmist promise to do in response?
15. For what two reasons does the psalmist say he will praise God in verse 21?
16. What does the psalmist say the builders did in verse 22? What happened in spite of their actions?
17. Who does the psalmist say in verse 23 is responsible for such a reversal of fortune? What is the psalmist's reaction?
18. In verse 24, what does the psalmist insist that he will do each day and why?
19. For what two things does the psalmist pray in verse 25?

20. Who does the psalmist praise in verse 26?
21. What does the psalmist say God has given His people in verse 27? What does he say should be done with a sacrifice to God?
22. In verse 28, what two things does the psalmist say will flow out his relationship with God?

Summary and Application:

1. The word translated in verses 1-4 and 29 as “mercy” or “lovingkindness” refers to God’s faithful, covenant-keeping love. Why are you thankful for God demonstrating this sort of mercy to you?
2. Think of a time when you were in great distress. How did God answer your prayers?
3. In verse 17, the psalmist promises to declare the works of the Lord. What are some things that the Lord has done for you? Who can you tell about these things?
4. How does verse 24 challenge you to look at each day? How can you incorporate this attitude into your life?
5. In verse 25, the phrase “save now” translates the Hebrew phrase “Hosanna.” How does this psalm foreshadow Christ’s entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday (see also verses 19 and 26)?
6. How does this psalm predict the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ (see especially verses 17-18, 22, and 27)?
7. In what specific ways can you praise and exalt God in your daily life?