

## Lesson Nineteen—Matthew 20:1–21:11

# Follow Me—Up to Jerusalem

### *Introduction*

We have left everything to follow you. What, then, will there be for us? That was Peter's question.

Jesus began answering him in chapter 19. He continues his answer in the parable of the workers in the vineyard.

In this chapter the pace quickens. The time is coming for Jesus to sacrifice himself for our sins.

The suffering servant, the Son of David, the King over God's kingdom, the true meaning of discipleship—these themes are all in high relief in our study today.

### ***20:1-16 Do not think you should be first and as a result end up last***

Who were “the first” in the parable?

Why did they end up last?

Who were “the last”?

Why did they end up first?

Review the first part of Jesus' answer to Peter's question in 19:27-29. How does this parable complete that answer?

Apply this to yourself. Do you ever feel you deserve more than other Christians because you have worked hard for your church?

### ***20:17-19 Up to Jerusalem***

These words form the introduction to Matthew's final chapters.

### ***20:20-28 The disciples still don't understand the nature of the kingdom of God***

**Verse 21** Considering what Jesus had just said in 20:17-19, why is this mother's question such a great example of a total misunderstanding of the kingdom of God?

**Verse 22** Why didn't James and John's mother know what she was asking?

What does Jesus mean by the cup he was going to drink?

Did James and John understand what drinking that cup meant for them? If not, when would they?

**Verse 23** What does Jesus' answer tell us about his attitude toward his Father and his Father's will?

**Verse 24** What did the rest of the disciples do that tells us they were no less guilty of sinful ambition?

**Verses 25-28** Evaluate: To understand and apply these verses is the most important (and difficult) lesson in being a disciple of Christ.

### ***20:29-34 Two blind men receive their sight***

Compare this miracle with a similar miracle in 9:27-30.

What are some similarities?

What are some differences?

Can you explain why Jesus handled the second situation differently than he handled the first? (Hint: Consider the time element.)

### ***21:1-11 Jesus enters Jerusalem***

**Verses 1-7** This account illustrates Jesus' complete power and complete humility at the same time.

How does it show Jesus' power?

How does it show Jesus' humility?

**Verses 8,9** Why did the way Jesus entered Jerusalem form such a sharp contrast to how he had treated public recognition before?

If you had been a disciple, how would you have reconciled Jesus' humility with the fact that he was accepting the praises of those who were extolling him as the Son of David?

How does this chapter help us understand Jesus' ministry? How does it help us understand the nature of the kingdom in which we are serving?

#### **Summary**

Jesus is ready to go into death for us. The disciples still did not understand the nature of his kingdom, yet soon would.

Jesus accepts the praise of the people, for that praise will write his death sentence with the Jewish leaders.

The one time Jesus accepts the full and public praise of the people is also the moment of his greatest humility. He puts himself in his Father's hands and resolutely sets out to follow his Father's will, even to death.

#### ***For next time***

Use The People's Bible commentary on Matthew to review this section. Read through Matthew 21:12-46 several times