

~ **DRAINING THE SWAMP** ~

Matthew 21:12-17

INTRODUCTION: As we saw last time when Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday “all the city was moved, saying, ‘Who is this?’” The answer they received, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee” – was a right answer, BUT, it was the wrong answer. Yes it was Jesus, and yes He was a prophet, and yes, in a sense he was from Nazareth of Galilee. The problem with their answer is that they are seeing Jesus only as a man, and only as a prophet like the prophets of the OT. Their answer should have been – “He is the Christ, the Son of the Living God”. Why do they give a wrong answer? Simple – They learned it in the Temple – Religion provides the wrong answer to the Person and work of Christ. Jesus started His ministry by cleansing the Temple (John 2:13-22) and now three years later He is bringing His earthly ministry to an end by once again cleansing the Temple. He entered Jerusalem as Messiah – and it was as Messiah that He cleanses the Temple. This is His first official public act as King and the Jerusalem Establishment does not like it. The religious establishment was a cesspool – a swamp – and it needed to be drained.

I. THE _____ OF THE TEMPLE – Matthew 21:12

II. THE _____ OF THE LORD – Matthew 21:13-14

A. IN _____ – v. 13

B. IN _____ – v. 14

III. THE _____ OF THE CHILDREN – Matthew 21:15

IV. THE _____ OF THE PRIESTS – Matthew 21:15b-16a

V. THE _____ OF THE LORD – Matthew 21:16b-17