

Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem (21:1-11)

narrated in all four Gospels  
Matthew makes clear that two animals involved  
seems to involve miraculous foreknowledge  
Matthew notes fulfillment of Zech 9:9  
"Hosanna"  
This is the prophet Jesus  
Jesus' claim is Messianic, crowds apparently don't get it

Temple Cleansed (21:12-17)

in synoptic Gospels, clearly distinguished chronologically  
from account in John  
casts out moneychangers and merchants  
two passages Jesus uses in justification Isa 56:7; Jer 7:11  
response to anger of opponents over "Hosannas"

Fig Tree Cursed (21:18-22)

Matthew apparently groups curse and fulfillment together  
need to check all parallel passages before drawing  
conclusions  
a lesson on faith  
an acted parable?

Jesus' Authority Questioned (21:23-27)

opponents trying to get Jesus to make damaging claim  
since they are not really after the truth, Jesus won't give  
it to them

Parable of Two Sons (21:28-32)

first: rebellious but repents = tax-collectors & harlots  
second: good talk, no action = Jewish leadership  
attitudes shown in reactions to John the Baptist

Parable of Tenant Farmers (21:33-46)

strong allusion to Isa 5:1-7 makes it obvious (to leaders,  
at least) what parable is about  
if vineyard = Israel, tenants = leaders/Israelites  
crowd's reaction condensed differently in 3 Gospels  
implied in Ps 118:22 (rejected cornerstone)  
leaders want to kill him, but afraid of crowd

Parable of Marriage Feast (22:1-14)

further clarification of what is going on here  
unwilling invitees = leaders (rebellious)  
replacement invitees = lower classes, undesirables  
(parallel parable in Luke makes Gentiles more obvious)  
fellow without proper garment = no nonchalance allowed

Paying Taxes to Caesar (22:15-22)

attempt to trap Jesus: compare John 7:53-8:11