

A TIME TO CHOOSE

⁵¹ As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.

Luke 9:51

²⁰ Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter.

Isaiah 5:20

I. I am the light of the world. I am the son of David. Make your choice.

* The healing of blind Bartemeus (Mark 10:46-52)

⁴⁶ Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (which means “son of Timaeus”), was sitting by the roadside begging. ⁴⁷ When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” ⁴⁸ Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” ⁴⁹ Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.” So they called to the blind man, “Cheer up! On your feet! He’s calling you.” ⁵⁰ Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus. ⁵¹ “What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked him. The blind man said, “Rabbi, I want to see.” ⁵² “Go,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you.” Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

II. I am the Lord of life and death. Make your choice.

* The raising of Lazarus from the dead (John 11:38-44)

³⁸ *Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance.* ³⁹ *“Take away the stone,” he said. “But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.”* ⁴⁰ *Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?”* ⁴¹ *So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me.* ⁴² *I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.”* ⁴³ *When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”* ⁴⁴ *The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”*

III. I am the king of Israel. Make your choice.

* The triumphal entry into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1-11; Zechariah 9:9)

¹ *As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples,* ² *saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me.* ³ *If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.”* ⁴ *This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:* ⁵ *“Say to Daughter Zion, ‘See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’”* ⁶ *The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them.* ⁷ *They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks*

on them for Jesus to sit on. ⁸ *A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.* ⁹ *The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” “Hosanna in the highest heaven!”* ¹⁰ *When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?”* ¹¹ *The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”* (Matthew 21:1-11 NIV)

⁹ *Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.* (Zechariah 9:9 NIV)

IV. I am the lord of the nations. Make your choice.

* The cursing of the fig tree—the revealing of rejection through fruitlessness (Mark 11:12-13,20)

¹² *The next day as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry.* ¹³ *Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to find out if it had any fruit. When he reached it, he found nothing but leaves, because it was not the season for figs. ...*

²⁰ *In the morning, as they went along, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots.*

V. I am the Lord of the temple. Make your choice.

* God cleanses his house (Mark 11:15-19)

¹⁵ *On reaching Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple courts and began driving out those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves,* ¹⁶ *and would not allow anyone to carry*

merchandise through the temple courts. ¹⁷ And as he taught them, he said, “Is it not written: ‘My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations’? But you have made it ‘a den of robbers.’” ¹⁸ The chief priests and the teachers of the law heard this and began looking for a way to kill him, for they feared him, because the whole crowd was amazed at his teaching. ¹⁹ When evening came, Jesus and his disciples went out of the city.

VI. He is the fulfillment of all redemptive history. Make your choice.

* The story of the vineyard (Mark 12:1-12)

¹ Jesus then began to speak to them in parables: “A man planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a pit for the winepress and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place. ² At harvest time he sent a servant to the tenants to collect from them some of the fruit of the vineyard. ³ But they seized him, beat him and sent him away empty-handed. ⁴ Then he sent another servant to them; they struck this man on the head and treated him shamefully. ⁵ He sent still another, and that one they killed. He sent many others; some of them they beat, others they killed. ⁶ He had one left to send, a son, whom he loved. He sent him last of all, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ⁷ But the tenants said to one another, ‘This is the heir. Come, let’s kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.’ ⁸ So they took him and killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard. ⁹ What then will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come and kill those tenants and give the vineyard to others. ¹⁰ Haven’t you read this passage of Scripture: ‘The

stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; ¹¹ the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes'?" ¹² Then the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders looked for a way to arrest him because they knew he had spoken the parable against them. But they were afraid of the crowd; so they left him and went away.