

An Earthquake in Jerusalem

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Matthew 21:1-17.

B. Earthquakes have ways of showing weaknesses. When Jesus came, he shook things up.

C. There were several responses to Jesus.

II. The Romans responded with scorn.

A. However, on the cross Jesus triumphed over powers. (Colossians 2:14-15, 2 Corinthians 2:14)

B. In Jesus there can always be a procession of triumph.

III. The multitudes responded with ignorant hope.

A. There was no hope for the Jews during Jesus time, but they rejected him as their spiritual leader nonetheless.

B. They expected the wrong kind of king. (John 6, Zechariah 9:9)

IV. The Jewish leadership responded with fear. (John 12:19)

A. Jesus exposed their sin, and he knew that it would end with death.

B. Jesus was declaring peace when he rode into Jerusalem. (Deuteronomy 20:10, Luke 19)

C. Traditional religion still sends people to hell. The leadership rejected Jesus' offer of peace.

V. The Lord responded with love.

Application questions:

1. How is the cross an ironic response to the Roman's scorn? Explain.

2. Why were the Jewish leaders afraid? How should we respond differently to having our sin exposed?

3. What does it mean that "traditional religion still sends people to hell?" Explain.
