

**"Who Is This?" or
"IS THAT YOUR FINAL ANSWER?"**

TEXT: Matthew 21:1-11

THESIS: To reveal the significance of the answers given by various entities at certain notable events.

INTRO.: A. On the wildly popular quiz show on TV "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire" (at the time of this writing) the *extremely ugly host*, Regis Philbin (with all that wavy hair & bright white teeth & perfect smile!!!), constantly asks the contestants who are presented with multiple choice answers to questions, **"IS THAT YOUR FINAL ANSWER?"**. The question has found its way into the colloquialisms of America.

B. Today we will use that question to explore answers given by various entities on Palm Sunday & other notable days. Your answers to certain questions will determine whether or not you are hired for a certain position, whether you pass or fail a test or even who you marry. The question there is "Will you...?" and the answer is "I do!" (When you say "I do" that is supposed to be ***your final answer!***)

ILLUS.: One man in Yugoslavia said "I do" 50 times & none of his 50 wives knew about the others. He was a traveling salesman & used that as his excuse for being away so much from each of them. He was exposed when a young girl he had married spoke about her husband to her cousin, who realized the

description of the groom was also her husband. Then the other 48 began to surface. They put him in jail & he begged to stay there rather than face the 50 women!

“Final answers” are important! But perhaps none are more so than those we will examine today...

I. THE JEW'S ANSWER ON 'PALM SUNDAY':

A. ***"Hosanna in the Highest!"*** Mt.21:8,9 (Correct answer)

1. The word "Hosanna" means "Save now, we beseech Thee."
2. It was a verbal recognition that Jesus was their long-awaited King.
3. It was the correct verbal response but was not the expression of their wicked hearts.
4. It was an answer that would seal their doom!

ILLUS.: Jesus of course knew that though they were proclaiming Him Savior now, He was in fact coming to a people who would reject Him.

B. ***"Blessed be the King!"*** Lk.19:38 (Correct answer)

ILLUS.: Their ***"final answer"*** would become His "final hour." He had continually & deliberately resisted their attempts at recognition & coronation, saying ***"Mine hour is not yet come."*** Now He presents Himself to His would-be subjects & accepts their adoration & coronation. In fact their King comes to be murdered by His subjects. It will be His ***"final answer"*** to their sin!

Note Lk.19:39-44 where the Pharisees ask Him to rebuke His followers. His response implies that if they had just searched the Scriptures they held in such reverence, they would have realized the significance of "***this thy day***" (v.42) & would have known that this was the long-*prophesied* "***time of thy visitation.***" (v.44)

II. THE PEOPLE'S ANSWER ON 'GOOD FRIDAY':

A. "***Let Him be crucified!***" Mt.27:23,24 (Wrong answer)

1. Pilate asks the significant question "***Shall I crucify your King?***"
2. Their "final answer" is "***We have no King but Caesar!***"

Jn.19:14-1 ***And it was the preparation of the passover, and about the sixth hour: and he saith unto the Jews, Behold your King! But they cried out, Away with him, away with him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar.***

- a. They remembered well the events of Palm Sunday when the peasants cried, "***Blessed be the King!***"
- b. These religious fakes & the people gave the politically correct answer & they would live to regret it.

B. "***His blood be upon us & our children!***" Mt.27:25 (Wrong answer)

1. Oh how that "final answer" would come back to plague the nation!
2. The nation of Israel would regret rejecting their Messiah & would pay the price again & again from that day to this and beyond!

ILLUS.: The Nazi Holocaust is only one in a series of persecutions of the nation experiencing the wrath of God for rejecting His Son. (Cf. Mt. 21:33-44 & Jesus' parable of the householder & the husbandman which illustrates how the Lord will treat those who have mistreated His Son & the price they will pay.) God's wrath will especially be visited on the nation of Israel in the Tribulation. But unbelieving Gentiles will also be crushed by a Great Stone! ("*whomsoever...*" v.44)

III. THE LORD'S ANSWER ON 'EASTER SUNDAY':

A. "*He is not here: for He is risen...!*" Mt. 28:6 (*Final answer*)

ILLUS.: When Michaelangelo visited the great galleries in Europe & the churches he was deeply impressed w/the preponderance of paintings & crucifixes of Christ on the cross. He asked "Why are the galleries (& churches) filled w/so many images of Christ on the cross – Christ dying? Why do the artists concentrate upon that passing episode, as if that were the last word & the final scene? Christ's dying on the cross lasted for only a few hours. But to the end of unending eternity, Christ is alive! Christ rules & reigns and triumphs!" (The cross was not God's **final answer** to man's sin, the resurrection was!)

One preacher had it right when he preached a message *on the resurrection* titled: "**The death of death in the death of Christ.**" If Jesus had simply died & not risen from the tomb, we would be "**yet in our sins.**" Death would still reign over every mortal man.

1. Jesus put Peter on the "hot seat" one day and asked him: "***Whom do men say that I the son of man am?***" Mt.13:13-16
2. Peter gave multiple answers: "***John the Baptist...Elijah...Jeremiah...one of the prophets...***"
3. Then Jesus asked him the million dollar question: "***But whom say ye that I am?***"
4. Peter gave his "final answer" & said: "***Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God!***"

IV. THE SAVIOR'S *ULTIMATE ANSWER ON 'JUDGMENT DAY':*

A. "***I never knew you, depart from Me!***" Mt.7:21-27 (Ultimate Answer)

ILLUS.: Many have had a shot at winning one million dollars on the TV show, but only a few have given the right "final answer" to the million dollar question. The Bible declares that many will travel the path to hell & destruction because they give the incorrect answer when confronted with the claims of Christ. He said only a few will find the way which leads to eternal life.

1. If you fail this crucial test you won't just lose a mere million dollars, you will lose your eternal soul!
2. What a tragedy to know that Jesus died & was raised for you, but never receive Him personally & lose out on heaven & end up in eternal torment in hell!

ILLUS.: Many are trying to purge the Bible of Hell & only stress the love of God & fail to warn sinners of their ultimate destiny. Perhaps even YOU tend to ridicule the concept of a place of eternal pain & torment in hell. The bad news is that hell is a real place & Jesus the One Who loved us so much that He died to keep us out of hell is the One Who spoke most about hell! I wish hell were not a reality, but it is & I must warn everyone so their blood will not be on my hands!

CONCL.: Beware making **"No!** your ***"final answer"*** to the most important question of life. The Jews & the religious leaders of Israel gave incorrect answers concerning Christ & they not only suffered here but hereafter as well. The Lord gave His **FINAL ANSWER** on Good Friday & Easter Sunday to the sin question. How do YOU respond? You don't want to hear **His ULTIMATE ANSWER** ***"I never knew YOU, depart from Me!" at the Judgment!***