

## E-Series Tuesday

Every day this week, I will be sharing with you some reflections written by my friends James Howell, pastor of Myers Park UMC in Charlotte. He will guide us through this Holy Week.

Think you're busy this week? Consider all Jesus did during Holy Week. After the drama of Palm Sunday and the ruckus of Jesus' Monday morning rampage through the temple, on Tuesday he walked right back into the temple where just the day before he had shocked and mortified the temple personnel – and began talking... at length.

We can imagine Jesus moving from place to place within the temple precincts (scroll down and click on these [virtual images!](#)), standing under porticoes, moving by the large stone staircase, standing near the gate, probing, questioning, listening and yet ruminating, his words poignant, uncomfortable, memorable, not exactly designed to demonstrate to the political powers that he was really a safe, likable sort of fellow they need not worry about.

Mark presents Jesus talking for 95 verses; if we turn to Matthew (chapters 22 through 25) Jesus' speeches on Tuesday run to 212 verses! Imagine all he said they didn't get written down! Don't his words carry more weight since we know he was in the final three days before his death? He knew the protectors of the *status quo* were plotting against him – so why then did he choose to talk about whether to pay taxes to Caesar or not? Instead of proving his patriotism, he offended Caesar, gently mocking Rome as not being as divine as they claimed to be! – and at the same time disappointing rebels who wanted Jesus to take up arms against Caesar. For Jesus, Truth mattered more than pleasing his listeners.

That Tuesday, he exposed the faked religiosity of the pious Pharisees, he wept over the Holy City which had lost its way, he warned the disciples of the perils of living into the Truth. Jesus clarified that our salvation depends on whether we feed the hungry and welcome the unwanted. Devious men tried to trick Jesus with a question about a woman with several husbands: to whom would she be married in heaven? For Jesus, the glory of hope is too large, too wonderful to be shrunk to earthly proportions, or limited by the way we do business down here.

Take some time on this Holy Tuesday to read Jesus words from his Holy Tuesday: Mark 11:20-13:37, or Matthew 21:23-25:40.

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*Time to Shine in 2009!*

*Pastor Michael*