

E-Series

Tuesday



Once again, I will turn my keyboard over to my friend, The Reverend Dr. James Howell, pastor of Myers Park UMC for his reflections on each day of this holiest of weeks.

As we pace ourselves through this week, let's recall what Jesus was up to each day. After the confusion of Sunday and the utter chaos of Monday, Jesus walked right back into the holy city on Tuesday and began talking – at great length. It's almost as if he wanted to get it all in, time was short, so much to say.

Certainly as he taught, lacking a classroom or any official status, he moved from place to place within the temple precincts ([click on this virtual image web site](#), scroll down, and explore, imagining you are following Jesus around, listening, wondering). Standing under porticoes, stepping up on a column base or a staircase in order to be heard, people drifting in and out, hanging on his words, then shaking their heads in dismay, his words poignant yet edgily uncomfortable, memorable, never apologizing, his eyes shedding love even as he probed and mapped out a way to live profoundly at odds with what they were accustomed to (and even more with what we are accustomed to).

In Matthew, Jesus' talking extends through chapters [22](#), [23](#), [24](#) and [25](#) – 212 verses! Most likely he said even more that didn't get remembered or written down! Rome had surveillance in the crowd – so why did he choose, then, to talk about whether to pay [taxes to Caesar](#) or not? and why offend Caesar and mock Rome? That Tuesday, his [harshes critique](#) was for the very pious, spiritual Pharisees, who quoted their Bibles and felt quite close to God. He told stories, and spoke quite directly, clarifying that our salvation depends not on whether we believe something in our heads or not, but on whether we feed the hungry and welcome the people nobody else wants. Take some time today to read Matthew 21:23-25:40, or even Mark 11:20-13:37 – and ponder the fact that Jesus said what he said with plotters ready to pounce, with his own sad but courageous awareness that he would not live much longer.

James

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Check out this fascinating [bird's eye view of the area around Jerusalem](#) and where Jesus was each day (take from the New International Version Study Bible).

Trying to Walk with Jesus this Holy Week,

Pastor Michael