

SERMON: LOVE IS ... Fulfilling Promises (Matthew 21:1-9)

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Jesus knows He will soon die when He rides into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Yet, He goes to Jerusalem anyway. Matthew says He does so, in part, to fulfill a prophecy from Zechariah. Jesus keeps this promise in the prophecy out of His love for us!

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. – 1 Corinthians 13:8, NIV

People _____; and People _____. ... But Not _____!

Matt. 16:21-23

God Keeps His _____.

This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: "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.'" - Matthew 21:4-5

" _____ " Places ...

"Life narrows down, and crisis comes. Suddenly only one thing matters, and there, in the narrow place, stands Jesus." – Arnold Kuntz

- **"We are all _____, this is true." (Martin Luther)**
- **We shout " _____!"**
Matthew 21:9

How Do You Navigate the Narrow Places? ...

1. **With _____.**
John 16:33
2. **With _____.**
Philippians 2:6-8
3. **With _____.**
John 3:30

TRUTH: Love Never Fails. Love Always _____.

Questions for individual or group reflection:

Share a time when you really "blew it!"
(i.e. failed)

When has someone else failed you?

Do you believe that God is faithful to His promises?

How did Jesus fulfill/keep God's promises? (i.e. prophecies)

Describe how Jesus' life converged on His final days in Jerusalem?

What's a "narrow place" according to Arnold Kuntz?

What were some of the narrow places in Jesus' life?

What are some of the narrow places in your life?

Will you cry out to Jesus to rescue you, or will you struggle on your own?

If you're in a narrow place, how does Jesus give you Peace? And Perspective?

Like John the Baptizer (John 3:30), where might you need to decrease so that Christ's strength can be demonstrated?

What are some areas where God is leading you to trust Him?



Pray: Lord, forgive us for all of our failures and sin. Convict us that we need to trust you more. Help us to cry out to you in those narrow places and the crises in our lives. Give us a peace knowing that you are with us at all times and in all things. And give us the perspective that understands that your sacrifice has overcome whatever struggle is challenging us. As we stand firm in your unfailing love, cause us to face whatever lies I front of us knowing that your Love never fails. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen!

Do: **If you are fearful about a narrow place you are in, cry out to Jesus, "Hosanna!" ... "Save us!" And then, allow Jesus to step into that narrow place with His unfailing Love.**

Taking it home / Memory Verse: *That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. – Philippians 2:10-11*



LOVE is

...FULFILLING
PROMISES

1 CORINTHIANS 13

Love bears all things, believes all things,
hopes all things, endures all things.”

1 CORINTHIANS 13:7

“For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing will be able to **separate** us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

ROMANS 8:38-39

“...because God has said, **‘Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.’** So we say with confidence, ‘The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid...’”

HEBREWS 13:5-6

Separation Anxiety



Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:8

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:8, NIV

People FAIL.



Councilman's prayer prompts public outburst



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21 From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

MATTHEW 16:21

22 Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!” 23 Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

MATTHEW 16:22-23

People **FAIL**.
... and People **BAIL** ...

But Not **JESUS!**

GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES

This took place to **fulfill what was spoken through the prophet**: “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.’” - Matthew 21:4-5

Image of Jesus on Mount of Olives looking at Jerusalem

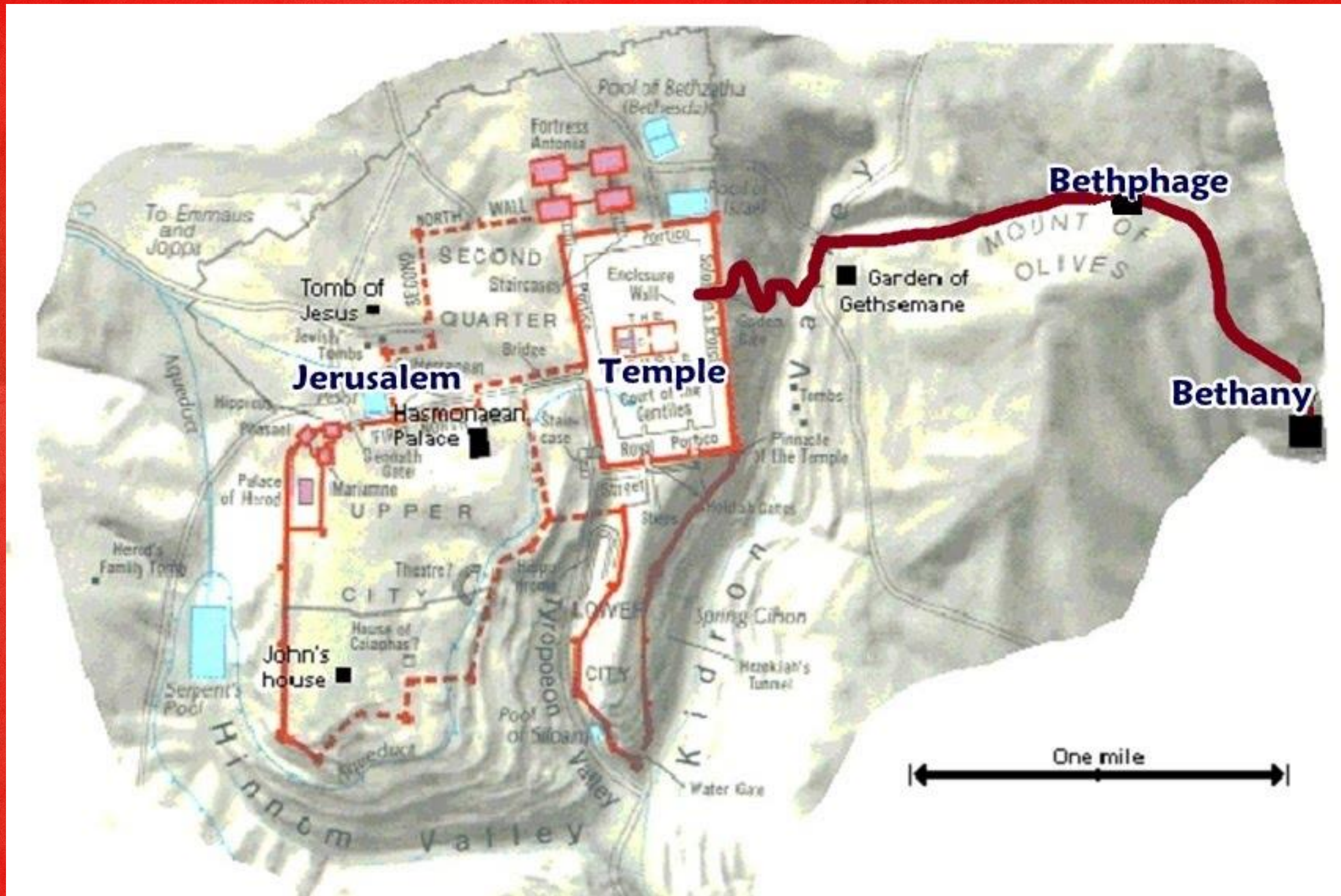








Image of gates at Jerusalem

NARROW Places ...

*“Life narrows down, and crisis comes.
Suddenly only one thing matters, and there,
in the narrow place, stands Jesus.”*

*– Arnold Kuntz
(Devotions for the Chronologically Gifted)*



“We are all beggars, this is true.”

– Martin Luther

Then the crowds that went ahead of Him and those who followed shouted, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

MATTHEW 21:9

We shout “**HOSANNA!**”



NAVIGATING THE NARROW PLACES

...with Peace.

NAVIGATING THE NARROW PLACES

...with Peace.

...with Perspective.

NAVIGATING THE NARROW PLACES

...with Peace.

...with Perspective.

...with Humble Faith.

“He must become greater; I must become less.”

JOHN 3:30



“No one has greater love than this: to lay down his life for his friends.”

JOHN 15:13

Truth:

**Love never fails,
Love always PREVAILS!**