

THE GOSPEL OF
MARK®
servant **KING**

CHAPTER 11
JESUS COMES TO JERUSALEM

This is Sunday of the week He would be crucified. The great Passover festival was about to begin; Jews came to Jerusalem from all over the Roman world during the weeklong celebration to remember the exodus from Egypt (see Exodus 12:37-51). Many in the crowds had heard or seen Jesus and were hoping He would come to the temple (John 11:55-57 NLT). Indeed, Jesus did go into the temple but with unexpected purpose and authority. He continued to teach His disciples on prayer and forgiveness and to respond with authority to the religious leaders' questions.

MEMORY VERSE

"Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, be removed and be cast into the sea, and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will come to pass, he will have whatever he says." **Mark 11:22-23**

Read Mark 11 prayerfully. There is a lot happening in these verses. What verse stood out to you the most? Why?

THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY OF THE MESSIAH

1. As Jesus and His disciples approached Jerusalem, Jesus stayed near the towns of Bethany and Bethphage on the Mount of Olives (vv.1-3). (Also see Matt. 21:1-3; Luke 19:28-31.)
 - a. What specific instructions did Jesus give to two of His disciples?

 - b. What were these disciples instructed to say if questioned?

- c. What did the disciples find as they went their way (vv.4-6)?

“Jesus could have known about the colt because He is God and therefore omniscient, or it might have been pre-arranged. The important feature is that Jesus is asserting His authority. Notice that if anyone questions them about losing the colt, they are to say that the Lord has need of it. That is asserting authority.” *J. Vernon McGee*

The edges of Bethany reached to the Mount of Olives and also bordered Bethphage, a suburb of Jerusalem. It is probably best known for being the hometown of Jesus’ good friends, Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. Bethany was the place where Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead (John 11:1, 41–44), the home of Simon the leper (Mark 14:3–10), and the place where Mary anointed Jesus’ feet with perfume (Matthew 26:6–13). It is also the place where Jesus stayed overnight during His final week of earthly ministry between His triumphal entry and His crucifixion (Matthew 21:17).

DID YOU KNOW?
Bethany was a village in Judea about two miles east of Jerusalem (John 11:18), a distance considered a “Sabbath day’s journey.”
ACTS 1:12

2. In your own words, write how Jesus our Messiah was presented to Jerusalem (vv.7-9).

3. What did the people cry out in verses 9-10? (Also see Matt. 21:9, Luke 19:38; John 12:13.) Use the blanks below to answer.

- a. “_____”
b. “Blessed is He who comes in the _____ of the _____”
c. “Blessed is the _____ of our father _____.”
d. “Hosanna in the _____.”
e. “Hosanna to the _____ of _____.”
f. “Blessed is the _____ who comes in the name of the _____.”
g. “Peace in _____ and _____ in the highest.”
h. The _____ of _____!”

DID YOU KNOW?
Hosanna is Hebrew for “save us.”

4. How does Scripture instruct us to worship God? (Use below verses to answer.)
 - a. Hosea 14:2 and Hebrews 13:15

 - b. Psalm 100:2

 - c. Psalm 134:2

 - d. Share a verse you've found.

5. The prophets spoke of what happened that day. Look up the following prophecies for this day; write what you learn:
 - a. Zechariah 9:9

 - b. Psalm 118:25-26

 - c. Psalm 24:7:12-14

 - d. Daniel 9:25

6. Matthew 21:10-11 records the reaction of the whole city; what does he add?

7. According to Luke 19:39-40, what did the Pharisees call out from the crowd to Jesus? How did Jesus respond to them?

8. At the end of this day, Jesus went to the Temple; what does Mark record He did while there in the Temple (v.11)?

“Our Lord’s “Triumphal Entry” was nothing like that, but it was a triumph just the same. He was God’s anointed King and Savior, but His conquest would be spiritual and not military. A Roman general had to kill at least five thousand enemy soldiers to merit a Triumph, but in a few weeks, the gospel would “conquer” some five thousand Jews and transform their lives (Acts 4:4). Christ’s “triumph” would be the victory of love over hatred, truth over error, and life over death.”

Warren Wiersbe

“If you begin on March 14, 445 BC and use the Jewish calendar of 360 days per year, 69 weeks, or 483 years, brings you to April 6, AD 32; the day Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey.” *Jon Courson*

DID YOU KNOW?

The Triumphal entry fulfills the prophecy in Daniel 9:25. The trigger to the 69-week countdown occurred when Artaxerxes Longimanus issued the decree to release the captives of Israel in Babylon on March 14, 445 BC.

A FIG TREE IS CURSED AND THE TEMPLE IS CLEANSED

The next day, as Jesus left Bethany, He was hungry.; What did He see from afar? What was His expectation? What did He find? How did Jesus react to what He found (vv.12-14)?

MORE ON FIG TREES

Each tree yields a great amount of fruit twice a year, in late spring and in early autumn. This incident took place in the spring when the leaves were beginning to bud. The figs normally grow as the leaves fill out, but this tree, though full of leaves, had no figs. The tree looked promising but offered no fruit. Jesus harsh words to the tree could be applied to the nation of Israel. Fruitful in appearance only, Israel was spiritually barren.

DID YOU KNOW?

Fig trees, a popular source of inexpensive food in Israel, require three years from the time they are planted until they can bear fruit.

9. When Jesus arrived in Jerusalem the next day, where did He go? What three things did He do, and what would He not allow (vv.15-16)?

Money changers and merchants did big business during Passover. People who came from foreign countries had to have their money changed into the Temple currency because this was the only money accepted for the Temple tax and for the purchase of sacrificial animals. Often the inflated exchange rate enriched the money changers, and the exorbitant prices of animals made the merchants wealthy. There were stalls set up in the Temple's Court of the Gentiles, making it impossible for non-Jews to spend any time in worship. (Isaiah 56:6-7) Jesus became angry because God's house had become a place of extortion and a barrier to Gentiles who wanted to worship.

DIG DEEPER

This was the second time Jesus cleansed the Temple. Read John 2:13-25 and give specific details you learned about the first time: by answering the following questions.

- When did it take place?
- How did Jesus clear out the Temple?
- What did He say to those doing business in the Temple?
- What was the response of the Jews?
- What did Jesus say about His body the Temple?

10. Jesus teaches the people, including the scribes and chief priests, using Old Testament Scriptures. What does He say about His house (v.17)? (Also see Jeremiah 7:11; Isaiah 56:7.)

11. What was the reaction of the leaders when they heard what Jesus said about His house? What was the response of the common people (vv.18-19)? (Also see Luke 19:47-48.)

“Campbell Morgan points out that “a den of thieves” is the place to which thieves run *when they want to hide*. The chief priests and scribes were using the temple and its religious services to “cover up” their sin and hypocrisy. Both Isaiah (1:10-17) and Jeremiah (7:1-16) had warned the people of their day that the presence of the physical temple was no guarantee of blessing from God. It was what the people did in the temple of their hearts that was really important. The nation had not heeded the warning of the prophets, nor would they heed our Lord’s warning.” *Warren Wiersbe*

PERSONAL

What does Paul teach us later about our Temple? (1 Corinthians 6:19-20) How are you honoring the Lord Jesus with your temple today? Is there anything Jesus needs to clear out of the way so you can be a woman of prayer? How do you prepare your heart when you come to church to worship the Lord Jesus?

FORGIVENESS AND PRAYER

12. The next day as Jesus and the disciples passed by the fig tree, what did they observe? What had happened to the fig tree (vv.20-21)? (Also see Matt. 21:20.)

13. The nation of Israel is associated with a fig tree.
 - a. What correlation do you see from Jesus cursing this fig tree and the present spiritual state of the people in Israel? (Cross reference: Jeremiah 8:13; Hosea 9:10; Nahum 3:12)

 - b. Compare these verses with the promise of Habakkuk 3:17 for those whose hearts are yielded to the Lord.

14. What do you see is the significance of the tree drying up from the roots? (See Matt. 3:7-10; Luke 13:6-9 for insight.)
- Who is speaking in Matthew 3:7-10
 - What fruit is he speaking of in verse 8?
 - What does he proclaim in Matthew 3:11-12?

“Whenever an individual or a group “dries up” spiritually, it is usually from the roots.” *Warren Wiersbe*

PERSONAL

God desires that we bear spiritual fruit in our lives. Read John 15:1-8 what do you learn about being a fruitful Christian?

15. How did Jesus use this as an opportunity to teach the disciples (vv.22-23)?
- What does He exhort them to have?
 - What imagery did Jesus use an example of faith? (Also see Zechariah 4:6.)
 - What did Jesus say stops faith?
 - How big does this faith have to be according to Matthew 17:20?
16. Use a dictionary to define *faith*. Now read Hebrews 11:1. Warren Wiersbe wrote, “Have faith in God,” meaning to constantly trust God and live in an attitude of dependence on Him. Does this describe you?

17. “True faith in praying is based on God’s word and abiding in the love of God (John 15:7; Romans 10:17) and His Word reveals His will to us” (Warren Wiersbe). How are we to come to the Lord in prayer (v.24)?

18. Jesus continues teaching on faithful prayer. How important is it to forgive another person who has wronged you to God? What conditions does God put on forgiveness for another (vv.25-26)? (Also see Matt. 6:15, 18:35.)

“Our forgiving spirit is one evidence that our hearts are right with God and that we want to obey His will, and this makes it possible for the Father to hear us and to answer prayer. See Psalm 66:18. Faith works by love (Galatians 5:6). If I have faith in God, I will also have love for my brother.”

Warren Wiersbe

PERSONAL

Who do you need to forgive today?

JESUS’S AUTHORITY IS QUESTIONED

19. As Jesus and the disciples came into Jerusalem, who came to them? What two questions did they confront Jesus with (vv.27-28)? (Also see Luke 20:1-2.)

20. Jesus answered their question with a question.

- a. Why would Jesus take these self-seekers back to John the Baptist (v.30)? (See Luke 7:29-30)
- b. What was John’s message from the beginning (Mark 1:4)?
- c. Did they receive John’s message?

DID YOU KNOW?

The chief priests, the scribes and the elders made up the Sanhedrin, the 70-member governing council of the Jews.

21. Were these religious men really wanting an answer? What was their motive in asking this question?
(See Mark 11:18; Luke 19:47)

22. As the religious leaders reasoned among themselves, what was their dilemma? How was this discussion concluded (vv.1-33)?

“Jesus did not refuse to answer their question; He only refused to accept and endorse their hypocrisy. He was not being evasive; He was being honest.” *Warren Wiersbe*

DWELL ON THIS

“The greatest enemy to human souls is the self-righteous spirit which makes men look to themselves for salvation.” *C. H. Spurgeon*

