

Bibles???

The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Let's pray...

[Mar 11:1-19 NKJV] 1 Now when they drew near Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, He sent two of His disciples; 2 and He said to them, "Go into the village opposite you; and as soon as you have entered it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has sat. Loose it and bring [it]. 3 "And if anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord has need of it,' and immediately he will send it here." 4 So they went their way, and found the colt tied by the door outside on the street, and they loosed it. 5 But

some of those who stood there said to them, "What are you doing, loosing the colt?" 6 And they spoke to them just as Jesus had commanded. So they let them go. 7

Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their clothes on it, and He sat on it. 8 And many spread their clothes on the road, and others cut down leafy branches from the trees and spread [them] on the road. 9 Then those who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: "Hosanna! 'Blessed [is] He who comes in the name of the LORD!' 10 Blessed [is] the kingdom of our father David That comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" 11 And Jesus went into

Jerusalem and into the temple. So when He had looked around at all things, as the hour was already late, He

went out to Bethany with the twelve. 12 Now the next day, when they had come out from Bethany, He was hungry. 13 And seeing from afar a fig tree having leaves, He went to see if perhaps He would find something on it. When He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. 14 In response Jesus said to it, "Let no one eat fruit from you ever again." And His disciples heard [it]. 15 So they came to Jerusalem. Then Jesus went into the temple and began to drive out those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. 16 And He would not allow anyone to carry wares through the temple. 17 Then He taught, saying to them, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be

called a house of prayer for all nations'? But you have made it a 'den of thieves.' " 18 And the scribes and chief priests heard it and sought how they might destroy Him; for they feared Him, because all the people were astonished at His teaching. 19 When evening had come, He went out of the city.

Show Map

For the first 10 chapters of the Gospel of Mark, Mark has emphasized the ministry of Jesus in the area around the Sea of Galilee.

For the past two weeks we have seen Jesus and His disciples in the area of Perea. That is where Jesus was confronted by the Pharisees on His interpretation of divorce.

And as they left the area east of the Jordan River, the scriptures tell us that they headed toward Jerusalem.

On their way, to Jerusalem they passed through the city of Jericho where Jesus had the encounter with Bartimaeus and healed him of his blindness.

So now, Jesus and His disciples are approaching Jerusalem.

So chapter 11 is a turning point in the Gospel of Mark.

When we began our study through the Gospel of Mark, I had mentioned that Mark portrays Jesus as the Servant.

And we have seen through the first 10 chapters, Jesus serve the multitudes through many healings and through feedings.

He has cast out demons, healed the lame, and healed the blind and the deaf – and so on.

Not only has Jesus been serving man, He has made a point to teach His disciples to serve.

[Mar 10:43-45 NKJV] 43 "Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. 44 "And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. 45 "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

So starting in chapter 11, Mark will now portray Jesus Christ as not only a servant – but as the **suffering servant**.

You see, chapter 11 begins the final week of the ministry of Jesus Christ.

And Mark allocated more than half of his gospel detailing the events that transpired that final week.

So the first event in our text this morning is referred to as Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

Now, this is the first time that Mark mentions Jesus going into Jerusalem – however, the gospel of John tells us that Jesus made multiple visits to Jerusalem to observe the different feasts that the Jews were required to do.

Every Jewish male was required to make the pilgrimage to Jerusalem three times a year.

And one of those feasts was the Passover Feast, the celebration of God's deliverance over the Children of Israel while they were in Egypt.

This is the reason that they are heading into Jerusalem.

And as they approach Jerusalem, Jesus sends out two of His disciples to go get a colt for Him.

Notice that He provides specific instructions for them to follow.

And we see that they were obedient to His command. They find the colt – untie it – when questioned, they responded with the words Jesus told them to respond and they bring the colt to Him.

Now, I want to make sure that we understand that Jesus is not asking His disciples to steal the colt – in Matthew's account, it states that the owners were told that it would be returned.

So why did Jesus request a colt and not a horse???

Reason #1 – to fulfill prophecy.

[Zec 9:9 NKJV] 9 "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He [is] just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.

Reason #2 –

By riding on a colt instead of a horse, Jesus is demonstrating that He is coming into the city in peace.

That He is not coming into Jerusalem to wage war against Roman occupation but He is there to bring peace **between God and those who were His enemies by virtue of being sinners in need of salvation.**

He would make peace by dying on the Cross, as our sacrifice and substitute for sin.

[Col 1:20 NKJV] 20 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

You see, there is a reason that Jesus makes His triumphal entry into Jerusalem on a Sunday. Because during the first Passover, the families were supposed to pick out the lamb that was without blemish on the first day – and it wasn't until four days later that the lamb was slaughtered.

So Jesus' triumphal entry is really the declaration to the world that He is the Passover Lamb – the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world.

In verse 7 it states that the disciples provide a makeshift saddle for Jesus by spreading clothes on top of the colt. It had never been ridden – we see Jesus as the colt whisperer as the colt is submissive to His will.

And as Jesus enters Jerusalem, people spread their clothes on the road along with branches.

They are giving Jesus the red carpet treatment. They are demonstrating their adoration toward Him.

Now, Mark doesn't record that the people placed palm branches on the road – the Gospel of John tells us this and that is why we refer to this day as Palm Sunday.

Let's look at verse 9-10 again,

[Mar 11:9-10 NKJV] 9 Then those who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: "Hosanna!

'Blessed [is] He who comes in the name of the LORD!'

10 Blessed [is] the kingdom of our father David That comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"

The word Hosanna means "save now"

The people were ready for their King – their Savior.

Unfortunately, the celebration was not to last. The crowds looked for a Messiah who would rescue them politically and free them nationally, but Jesus had come to save them spiritually.

First things first, and mankind's primary need is spiritual, not political, cultural, or national salvation.

Even as the multitudes waved the palm branches and shouted for joy, they missed the true reason for Jesus' presence. They could neither see nor understand the cross.

Turn with me to the gospel of Luke –

[Luk 19:41-44 NKJV] 41 Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, 42 saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things [that make] for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. 43 "For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, 44 "and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation."

The multitudes saw their Savior – yet they didn't recognize Him for who He is.

The same multitudes that cried out Hosanna on Sunday – are the same ones that shouted crucify Him crucify Him days later.

And because they couldn't see Jesus for who He is, Jesus wept for the judgment that would come upon Jerusalem, And in 70 AD the Roman army destroy the temple and the historian Josephus writes that 1.1 million Jews were killed during the destruction of Jerusalem.

So Jesus goes into Jerusalem, walks into the temple – takes a look around and then He and His disciples go back to Bethany where they were staying.

Jesus takes inventory of what is occurring in the temple – and the rest of this chapter is a response to what was going on in the temple. Keep that in mind.

12 Now the next day, when they had come out from Bethany, He was hungry. 13 And seeing from afar a fig tree having leaves, He went to see if perhaps He would find something on it. When He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. 14 In response Jesus said to it, "Let no one eat fruit from you ever again." And His disciples heard [it].

So the next morning, as they come into Jerusalem, Jesus is hungry and He spots a fig tree. Not only was it a fig tree – it had leaves.

Now, the fruit of the fig tree generally appears before the leaves, and, because the fruit is green it blends in with the leaves right up until it is almost ripe.

Therefore, when Jesus and His disciples saw from a distance that the tree had leaves, they would have expected it to also have fruit on it even though it was earlier in the season than what would be normal for a fig tree to be bearing fruit.

When Jesus approaches the fig tree and realizes that it has no figs – He curses it!!!

So the question is why did Jesus curse it?

And unless we read this in context, we can come up with all these weird reasons for Jesus cursing this fig tree.

I asked you a few moments ago to keep in mind that everything that occurs in chapter 11, is a result of what Jesus saw in the temple.

Now, in the Old Testament – we find that figs represent Israel.

[Hos 9:10 NKJV] 10 "I found Israel Like grapes in the wilderness; I saw your fathers As the firstfruits on the fig tree in its first season. [But] they went to Baal Peor, And separated themselves [to that] shame; They became an abomination like the thing they loved.

Not only do they represent Israel, they represent the spiritual condition of Israel.

Turn with me to Jeremiah 24.

[Jer 24:1-10 NKJV] 1 The LORD showed me, and there were two baskets of figs set before the temple of the LORD, after Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had carried away captive Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, and the princes of Judah with the craftsmen and smiths, from Jerusalem, and had brought them to Babylon. 2 One basket [had] very good figs, like the figs [that are] first ripe; and the other basket [had] very bad figs which could not be eaten, they were so bad. 3 Then the LORD said to me, "What do you see, Jeremiah?" And I said, "Figs, the good figs, very good; and the bad, very bad, which cannot be eaten, they are so bad." 4 Again the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 5 "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: 'Like

these good figs, so will I acknowledge those who are carried away captive from Judah, whom I have sent out of this place for [their own] good, into the land of the Chaldeans. 6 'For I will set My eyes on them for good, and I will bring them back to this land; I will build them and not pull [them] down, and I will plant them and not pluck [them] up. 7 'Then I will give them a heart to know Me, that I [am] the LORD; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God, for they shall return to Me with their whole heart. 8 'And as the bad figs which cannot be eaten, they are so bad'--surely thus says the LORD--'so will I give up Zedekiah the king of Judah, his princes, the residue of Jerusalem who remain in this land, and those who dwell in the land of Egypt. 9 'I will deliver

them to trouble into all the kingdoms of the earth, for [their] harm, [to be] a reproach and a byword, a taunt and a curse, in all places where I shall drive them. 10

'And I will send the sword, the famine, and the pestilence among them, till they are consumed from the land that I gave to them and their fathers.' "

So here in chapter 24, we have the tale of two baskets of figs.

One is "very good," and the other "very bad." God explained to Jeremiah that they represented the spiritual condition of the Jews:

- Those who were "good" He would protect and keep.
- Those who were "bad" were headed to judgment.

When Jesus had entered the temple in verse 11, what He witnessed was a people whose spiritual condition was nonexistent.

And in the same way that Jesus went to the fig tree looking for fruit, He walked into the temple looking for fruit and found none.

And in the same way that the fig tree promised fruit – since it had leaves, the nation of Israel, itself, lacked fruit despite an abundance of leaves.

They had the temple, they had the priests, they had the sacrificial system in place, they had the Old Testament to guide them – those are all leaves.

And they had nothing to show for it.

It is a perfect illustration of the nation of Israel as Jesus encountered her during His earthly ministry. Israel was all leaf, with no fruit.

And by Jesus cursing the tree, He was bringing judgment upon the tree and upon the nation of Israel.

As the church, we are also commanded to bear fruit.

[Jhn 15:8 NKJV] 8 "By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

How do we become fruitful?

We must remember that fruit is a by-product of a plant existing in healthy conditions. The soil has to be right, it has to be watered and nurtured.

Spiritual fruit is a by-product of our healthy relationship with Jesus Christ. As we abide in Christ, fruit develops naturally.

Always remember that...producing fruit

- is not something that is forced.
- We do not have to struggle to produce it.

So what did Jesus see in the temple??

We see this in verses 15-19

The religious rulers were ripping the people off.

As people came in with their sacrifices, the priest were the ones that would be able to determine if the sacrifice was deemed worthy or not –

So you could be one of the pilgrims that would come from far away with your own dove to sacrifice (doves were allowed to

be sacrificed for those that were poor) and the priests could say – nope, not good enough. And then you would be forced to buy one of their doves that had already been deemed worthy at a premium price.

Not only were they ripping people off by making them purchase their animals, they were also collecting money by exchanging money in the temple.

The priest had developed their own temple currency. So if you wanted to buy one of their doves, you would have to exchange your money first and then pay the higher price. So the pilgrims were getting ripped off twice.

Jesus also prevented anyone from moving wares throughout the temple.

Wares were goods that people wanted to sell and profit from.

These were vendors.

Jesus didn't want the people to get fleeced when they were coming to His house to worship Him.

[Mar 11:17-19 NKJV] 17 Then He taught, saying to them, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations'? But you have made it a 'den of thieves.' "

In verse 17, Jesus quotes Isaiah and Jeremiah.

Jesus was careful to make sure everyone understood what He was doing was based on the Word of God.

This wasn't just a fit of rage. What the priests were allowing & the merchants were doing was so badly mis-representing God - that action HAD TO BE TAKEN.

And Jesus had a right to do this — after all, the temple was HIS HOUSE!

18 And the scribes and chief priests heard it and sought how they might destroy Him; for they feared Him, because all the people were astonished at His teaching.

19 When evening had come, He went out of the city.

What did they fear? They feared His influence & growing popularity.

Because what He taught was so contrary to what they'd been teaching, they saw their position & influence with the people threatened.

There was only one way to deal with the situation — get rid of Jesus.

There was no discussion of whether or not what Jesus was teaching was true. To their minds, that wasn't the issue.

The only thing that mattered was that He was threatening their lifestyle.

The application to us today ought to be obvious.

As Christians, we claim to be the children of God.

And as His children, we are expected to produce fruit.

The dangers of not producing fruit, is that we misrepresent God and become a burden to others instead of a blessing.

Let' pray...

To Receive Christ do the following:

Admit, "I am a sinner."

Confess and be willing to turn from your sin.

Believe, by faith that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross.

Receive, through prayer, Jesus Christ into your heart and receive eternal life.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I

believe that You died on the cross for my sins. Please

forgive me for my sins and cleanse me by Your blood. I

accept You by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Give me a thirst for Your Word and Help me to follow You all of my days. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

