

## Jesus Enters Jerusalem

S.R. Mark 11:8 - 10

10 – 10 - 2021

### Introduction

- A. As we continue our march through Mark we come to chapter 11 and the last week, including the cross.

### I. Jesus Enters Jerusalem (Mark 11:1 – 11)

- A. Jesus sent two disciples into Jerusalem to bring him a colt.
  - 1. As He rode it into the city multitudes of people lined the route, spreading their clothes and leafy branches in His path to honor Him. (Psalm 118)
  - 2. While the enthusiastic crowd cheered, Jesus remained calm.
    - a. This was the parade that would lead to the cross.
  - 3. Why had He chosen to enter the capital on a donkey, not on some great white steed? (Zech 9:9 – 10)
- B. His life reflected one of His favorite sermons: greatness in the kingdom comes to the one who humbles himself.
- C. What did Jesus ride when He entered Jerusalem? (a) a horse, (b) a chariot, (c) a donkey colt.
- D. As Jesus entered Jerusalem what did the crowd **not** do? a) put their clothes in the road; b) shout praises; c) try to prevent Him from entering the city; d) lay leafy branches in His path.

### II. Jesus and the Fig Tree and the Temple (Mark 11:12 – 26)

- A. The Fig Tree
  - 1. When He approached, He observed that it had no fruit.
  - 2. He cursed it and by the next day, it was withered up. Jesus' action taught the amazed disciples some lessons.
  - 3. First, people who bear no fruit will be cursed by God.
    - a. This principle applied to the Jewish nation as a whole, because it was bearing no fruit for the Lord.
  - 4. Second, Jesus noted that God has the power to wither fig trees and move mountains; in short, to respond to prayer. .
- B. The Temple
  - 1. When Jesus entered the temple He saw a stockyard and money-changers' booths.

2. Some people were selling the special coin used to pay the temple tax, while others sold animals for sacrifices.
3. Jesus began to cast out these merchants, overturning the money-changers' tables and the vendors' chairs.
  - a. Not the first time - See John 2:13 – 22
4. These temple rulers were not looking for truthful authoritative answers.
  - a. Seeking political correctness – how will the crowd respond?
5. He said that the temple was supposed to be a place of prayer but had been turned into a robbers' den. (Isa. 56:6 – 7; Jer. 7:11)
6. **Note -- *Would Jesus cleanse the temple again? Why did Jesus vehemently oppose these activities? It wasn't because He was against selling animals or changing money; rather, He opposed the perversion of the temple's function. God had given the temple for spiritual purposes, and it was wrong to make it a bazaar. We must never use what God has given us for purposes He has not authorized. God gave us a pattern for the local church. Its function is to worship, teach the gospel and help needy Christians. But many churches have begun to do other things: they sponsor recreation, entertainment, secular education, etc. If Jesus returned, would He not come to churches and begin to cast out all of the unauthorized practices that have crept into them?***

C. Questions:

1. What was on the fig tree that Jesus saw? a) figs; b) leaves, but no figs; c) neither figs nor leaves; d) rotten figs.
2. Whom did Jesus expel from the temple? a) money changers and animal sellers; b) priests; c) harlots and murderers; d) Gentiles.
3. What was the main problem with the money changing and animal sales?

**III. Question about Jesus' Authority (Mark 11:27 – 33)**

- A. Jesus' bold actions in the temple stirred opposition.
- B. He asked whether John's baptism came from God or men.
  1. They consulted among themselves and decided that it would be politically unwise to answer.
  2. Their refusal demonstrated that they were not sincerely seeking truth. Therefore, Jesus refused to answer their question.
  3. Jesus had previously answered the same question (John 2:17 – 22)

C. **Note -- *Jesus' question is a model:***

1. Jesus asked the Jewish leaders an outstanding question:
2. Did John's baptism come from God or man?
3. This is the question that we should ask about every religious practice.
  - a. Anything that originates in man should be rejected; all that God commands should be carefully observed.
  - b. There is an easy way for us to determine whether a given teaching or activity comes from God or man.
  - c. Everything that comes from God is in the Bible. If a particular doctrine or practice is not in the Bible, it is not from God.
  - d. We should verify everything we do by this simple test: Does it come from God or from man?

D. Questions:

1. When Jesus asked the Jewish leaders about John's baptism, what two choices did He give for its origin?
  - a. Answer: He asked whether it came from \_\_\_\_\_ or from \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Why did Jesus refuse to answer the Jewish leaders' question?
  - a. Answer: They proved they were not seeking truth because they refused to \_\_\_\_\_ His question.
  - b. Also: He had already given them an answer in John 2.

**IV. Conclusion:**

A. How about you?

1. Do you proclaim Jesus as the Hosanna King that has come to rescue you?
  - a. Is humble worship your response to King Jesus?
  - b. What is it that you would *lay down* to honor the king?
2. Do we have leaves like the fig tree but produce no useful fruit?
3. Do you clutter God's temple with the mundane or seek to use "church" as a hide out to cover up your sins?
  - a. When you come to the assemblies is "prayer" what you discuss?

B. Do my beliefs and practices come from God's authority or self or others?

C. The baptism which Christ requires (Matthew 28:18 – 20) is by whose authority?