

## JESUS FINAL WEEK

-

### 1. FIRST DAY: THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

#### **(1-6) PREPARATIONS**

- Jesus had been ministering now for a little over 3 years, and is now making His final trip into Jerusalem

- He had been telling His disciples for the last few weeks what was awaiting Him at Jerusalem (see [Mark 10:32-34](#))

- Now, in fulfillment of OT prophecies, Jesus sends His disciples to go onto town and bring back a foal upon which no one had ever ridden

#### **(7-11) JESUS ENTERS JERUSALEM**

- as Jesus descended the Mount of Olives, a great crowd had gathered

- this was the Passover season, and some have estimated that there may have been a couple of million people in the Jerusalem area

- up to this point, Jesus had shunned the public eye, often telling folks that His time had not yet come

- now, on what is traditionally known as Palm Sunday, Jesus makes His very public entrance into the city of Jerusalem, riding on a donkey

- this is an amazing event, and we see 3 Old Testament prophecies coming together. ([Zechariah 9.9](#), [Psalm 118.24-26](#), [Daniel 9.24-26](#))

- as Jesus entered the Temple, we find another fulfillment of an Old Testament prophecy, [Malachi 3:1-3](#) – "Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming," Says the LORD of hosts. "But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire And like launderers' soap. He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, And purge them as gold and silver, That they may offer to the LORD An offering in righteousness.

### 2. SECOND DAY: FIG TREE CURSED; TEMPLE CLEANSED

#### **(12-14) THE FIG TREE CURSED**

- as Jesus came back the next day, He was hungry, and noticed a fig tree

- He approached the tree because He saw that it had leaves, which is an indication that there should've also had fruit

- upon closer examination, He found no fruit, so He cursed the tree

- reminds me of an almost barren fig tree in our back yard which I would like to do the same thing to!
- My wife sees things a lot differently than I do, and she posted a blog on her website about it
  - Here is the link = <https://thejoyfulhaven.com/> (click on the entry for January, 2022)

- Throughout the Old Testament, the fig tree was used as a symbol for the nation of Israel  
 - so, when Jesus comes to the fruitless tree, He finds no fruit, which is probably an illustration of the fruitlessness of the nation  
 - the same may be true of our lives as a believer  
 - Jon Courson says concerning this passage = I wonder if Jesus comes by our lives in the morning hours desiring fruit. Outwardly, because of our abundance of leaves—our activities and words—we might look like we’ve got it together. But upon closer inspection, it is obvious to Him that we lack true fruit—

- the fruit of love ([Galatians 5:22, 23](#)),
- the fruit of the conversion of souls ([John 4:36](#)),
- the fruit of works of righteousness ([Philippians 1:22](#)),
- the fruit of financial giving ([Romans 15:28](#)),
- the fruit of praise ([Hebrews 13:15](#)).

### **(15-19) JESUS CLEANSSES THE TEMPLE**

- the Temple, especially the outer court where the only place Gentiles could go was turned into a marketplace where the people who had come to worship were ripped of

- money changers = people bringing their offerings or the required tax to the temple had to exchange their Roman currency for Hebrew shekels at an extremely high exchange rate
- those who sold animals for sacrifice = people would bring their sacrifice, but the priests would find some uncleanness and tell them that their sacrifice was not acceptable. Their solution = buy an animal that is clean from us (at an extremely high price)

- Jesus called it a den of thieves  
 - what would He say about some of the ministries of our day that fleece the flock instead of feed the flock

### 3. THIRD DAY: LESSONS FROM THE FIG TREE, FORGIVENESS AND PRAYER

#### **(20-24) HAVE FAITH IN GOD**

- the tree was dried up from the roots

- the roots are the part that is not seen
- the leaves can be seen by everyone

- how deep are our roots (things like personal devotion, prayer)
- Jesus used the opportunity of the withered tree to teach about having faith in God – “Have faith in God”
  - faith and doubt cannot exist together at the same time, it is one or the other
  - faith, without doubting, can move mountains
- one of the things that is true about answered prayer is that we have faith that God hears and answers
  - prayer should always be according to God’s will, not our own”

#### **(25-26) IMPORTANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

- another key ingredient to our prayers being answered is forgiveness
- we can’t harbor bitterness and unforgiveness and expect God to answer our prayers
  - Jesus taught about this in the Sermon on the Mount
  - Paul reminded us in [Romans 12:18](#) – If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

#### **(27-33) CHALLENGED BY THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS**

- the religious leaders challenge Jesus as He is walking in the Temple – Who gave You the right to do what you are doing?
  - Before we are quick to judge these religious guys, how often does that same question arise when the Lord speaks to us about something in our life?
- Jesus answered their question with a question of His own

CN

August 28, 2022