



April 10, 2022

MAIN SCRIPTURE: Mark 11:1-3, 7-10, & 14:41-46

11¹ As Jesus and his disciples approached Jerusalem, they came to the towns of Bethphage and Bethany on the Mount of Olives. Jesus sent two of them on ahead.² “Go into that village over there,” he told them. “As soon as you enter it, you will see a young donkey tied there that no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here.”³ If anyone asks, “What are you doing?” just say, “The Lord needs it and will return it soon.”

11⁷ Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their garments over it, and he sat on it.⁸ Many in the crowd spread their garments on the road ahead of him, and others spread leafy branches they had cut in the fields.⁹ Jesus was in the center of the procession, and the people all around him were shouting, “Praise God!^[a] Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord! ¹⁰ Blessings on the coming Kingdom of our ancestor David! Praise God in highest heaven!”^[b]

14⁴¹ When he returned to them the third time, he said, “Go ahead and sleep. Have your rest. But no—the time has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.”⁴² Up, let’s be going. Look, my betrayer is here!”⁴³ And immediately, even as Jesus said this, Judas, one of the twelve disciples, arrived with a crowd of men armed with swords and clubs. They had been sent by the leading priests, the teachers of religious law, and the elders.⁴⁴ The traitor, Judas, had given them a prearranged signal: “You will know which one to arrest when I greet him with a kiss. Then you can take him away under guard.”⁴⁵ As soon as they arrived, Judas walked up to Jesus. “Rabbi!” he exclaimed, and gave him the kiss.⁴⁶ Then the others grabbed Jesus and arrested him.⁵⁰ Then all his disciples deserted him and ran away.

WARM UP

- Pastor John listed several things that he started but ultimately decided to quit, like playing acoustic guitar, ballroom dancing, raising chickens, eating clean, and swimming for exercise. Now it’s time to tell on yourself. Name some things that you started but ultimately quit in your own life.
- In this sermon, Pastor John uses the Palm Sunday account in Mark 11 to represent easy seasons in our life where it’s easy to trust and follow Jesus, and the Good Friday account in Mark 14 to represent difficult seasons in our life when it’s difficult to trust and follow Jesus. Tell your story. During which season(s) in your spiritual life did you find it easy and exciting to follow Jesus? What made this season such a delight? During which season in your spiritual life did you find it the most difficult to follow Jesus? What made this season so difficult? Did you consider quitting?

(Below you will find the main points of this week’s sermon along with discussion questions. Feel free to use, reword, or omit questions depending on the needs of your group and the time needed for prayer, care, and fellowship. Thank you for your leadership.)

Thought #1 – Don’t Quit! Remember your identity, regardless of what the crowd says.

Verses: John 15:15, ROMANS 8:16, 2 Corinthians 5:17

- Do you tend to worry about what people think about you? If so, in what context or areas of life do you seem to worry about this the most? Why?
- Tell your story. Tell of a time in your life when you had to consistently remind yourself who you were in Christ rather than listening to what the crowds said.
- Read the scripture for Thought #1, according to these verses, what is true about your true identity?

Thought # 2 – Don’t Quit! Remember your calling and purpose whether it is day or night.

Verses: John 15:16

- Pastor John said, “We need this sense of calling most when we are confused and struggling, in seasons that feel dark.” Do you agree or disagree? Why?
- How can or should knowing that we are called by God, that He has given us purpose, sustain us during difficult seasons?

