

The Gospel of **MARK**

THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY: Mark 11

MARK15
10.16.2011

INTRO: Mark uses the last 6 chapters (out of 16) to deal with Jesus' last week! That's 37.5% of the Gospel of Mark is about the Passion Week, and only 62.5% of the Gospel is about His 3 year public ministry. More than any other Gospel.

BACKGROUND: This is a week before Passover. There would have been around 2 million Jews that would have traveled to come to Jerusalem. Pilate and his Roman soldiers would have left Caesarea on the coast and came to Antonio's Fortress by the Temple mount.

I. Our Humble King. (11:1-11)

A. Jesus sends two of His disciples to get a colt. (v. 1-3)

1. "Two of His disciples."

- a. We don't know who they are for sure, but one of them could be Peter because...
 - 1) Mark wouldn't have had these details (v. 5-6) except from an eyewitness account.

2. "Colt" – Gr. πωλον – "youngling, a foal, a colt."

- a. Matthew 21 tells us that they also got the mother of the colt.
 - 1) They probably got the mother because...
 - a) Jesus cared about the animals, and did not want to separate the mother from her young.
 - b) The colt might have been scared with the noisy crowd.
- b. Jesus was fulfilling Zechariah 9:9.

B. The two disciples obey Jesus. (v. 4-6)

1. Q = How was this whole situation arranged?...

- a. We don't really know, but it could be that...
 - 1) Jesus was known in that area.
 - a) He knew Lazarus, Mary, and Martha in Bethany.
 - 2) Jesus had prearranged it with the owners.
 - 3) There was Divine intervention.
 - a) A vision.
 - b) A dream.

C. Jesus rides into Jerusalem on the colt. (v. 7-11)

1. "And many spread their garments in the way."

- a. **Q** = Who are the “many”? Why did they gather?...
 - 1) These were people that wanted to see Jesus and Lazarus who He raised from the dead. They heard about Lazarus rising, then they knew this was the Messiah. (John 12:9-13)

2. NOTE: When a king went to war, he rode on a horse. When he came in peace, he rode on a donkey.

- a. The people thought that Messiah was coming to conquer.
 - 1) In 167 B.C., the Syrian king Antiocheius came and conquered Palestine bring Hellenism and the Greek way of life. To have a copy of the Law or to circumcise a child was a crime punishable by death. He desecrated the Temple Courts. There where YHVH was worshiped, he introduced the worship of Zeus. He offered a pig on the great alter for a burnt offering. Then, in 163 B.C., Judas Maccabaeus cane and conquered Antiocheius and re-purified and re-consecrated the Temple. This started the Feast of Dedication (Hanukah).
 - 2) When the Romans came into Jerusalem, they would have come in on white stallions to conquer, yet Jesus is so humble, He comes on a young donkey.

3. The people recognize Who Jesus is, but not what He was all about.

- a. Cf. **Psalm 118:22-27**.
 - 1) “*Hosanna*” – “*Save now*”
 - a) This was not praise to Jesus, but a cry to God to deliver their people from Rome.
- b. Jesus did not come...
 - 1) As a conquering king.
 - 2) To conquer their land.
 - 3) To overthrow the Romans.
- c. Jesus came...
 - 1) As a suffering Servant.
 - 2) To conquer their sin.
 - 3) To destroy the works of the devil. (1 John 3:8)

4. Before this day, Jesus would not allow people to proclaim Him as King.

- a. He would either,
 - 1) Walk away.
 - 2) Tell them not to say anything.
 - 3) He would say something to make them scratch their heads and say, "What?"
- b. Now, Jesus is letting them proclaim Who He truly is – the Messiah!

II. Out Angry King. (11:12-26)

A. Cursing a Fig Tree – pt. 1. (v. 12-14)

1. "On the morrow" – Monday

2. "He found nothing but leaves; for the time of figs was not yet."

- a. Fig trees bloomed twice a year.
 - 1) Early summer – May/June.
 - 2) Late summer – August/September.
- b. This story is April, which is early, but...
 - 1) The figs would ripen before there were leaves on it.
 - a) The fig tree was a symbol of blessing.
 - 1. **Deut 8:8** says, "A land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of oil olive, and honey;"
 - 2. **Num 13:23** "And they came unto the brook of Eshcol, and cut down from thence a branch with one cluster of grapes, and they bare it between two upon a staff; and they brought of the pomegranates, and of the figs."
 - 3. **1 Kings 4:25** "And Judah and Israel dwelt safely, every man under his vine and under his fig tree, from Dan even to Beer-sheba, all the days of Solomon."
 - 4. **Mic 4:4** "But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken it."
 - 5. **Zech 3:10** "In that day, saith the LORD of hosts, shall ye call every man his neighbour under the vine and under the fig tree."

b) **NOTE:** The absence of figs was a symbol of judgment.

2) Jesus came to this tree that had leaves, but no fruit.

c. **Q** = Why would Jesus blast such an innocent tree?...

1) Matthew 21:19 tells us that Jesus saw it "by the road," which means it was ownerless.

a) If a fig tree was fruitless, and you cut it down for firewood, nobody would have a problem.

2) It was not for His physical hunger, but because it had no fruit.

d. **Jesus was cursing this fig tree to teach the disciples a lesson bearing fruit.**

1) The fig tree was symbolic of the Nation of Israel (cf. Hosea 9:10) where God was seeking fruit, and finding none, deserted it.

a) They had the outward observances.

b) They honored God with their lips.

c) They were busy serving God.

d) They were doing their religious duties.

2) We see this same thing later in the Church at Ephesus. (Rev. 2:1-7)

a) Cf. **John 15:1-5**.

B. Cleansing the Temple. (v. 15-19)

1. Apparent Contradiction (Cf. **Matthew 21:12-19).**

a. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus cleanses the temple on Sunday, and then curses the fig tree on Monday.

b. In Mark's Gospel, Jesus curses the fig tree on Monday, and then also cleanses the temple.

2. There are many different views on this subject.

a. Some scholars believe...

1) A scribal error.

a) I think that's stupid.

- 2) There were two cleansings, one on Sunday, and one on Monday.
- 3) Matthew was teaching topically, not chronologically.
- b. **Q** = Which one is right?... I don't know, but what is amazing is that Jesus cleansed the Temple!
- c. **KEY: If there were 2 cleansings, it's interesting that when the Lord comes in to clean house, people will go right back where they were.**

3. Q = Why did Jesus cleanse the Temple?

- a. **Jesus was striking out against those that were making merchandise of the things of God. They were bringing a secular mentality to a holy place.**
 - 1) Instead of a place for praying, it became a place for preying and paying.
 - 2) The temple was supposed to be a place where people of all nations could come worship God.
- b. **The expensive purchase of the sacrifice.**
 - 1) You could not really bring your own sacrifice.
 - a) During traveling, your animal could get hurt or blemished.
 - b) Even if nothing happened to your animal, if you didn't have the little "certified-by-the-rabbi" stickers, then they would look at your own animal until they could find some imperfection, and they would reject it.
 - 2) You had to buy an animal when you got to Jerusalem.
 - a) They basically force you to pay these inflated prices for these certified sacrifices, and thus the people were being gouged when they just want to worship God.
 - 3) *"Overthrew... the seats of them that sold doves."*
 - a) **NOTE:** Doves were the sacrifice for the poor.
 - 1. **Lev 5:7-10** says, *"And if he be not able to bring a lamb, then he shall bring for his trespass, which he hath committed, two turtledoves, or two young pigeons, unto the LORD; one for a sin offering, and the other for a burnt offering. And he shall bring them unto the priest, who shall offer that which is*

for the sin offering first, and wring off his head from his neck, but shall not divide it asunder: And he shall sprinkle of the blood of the sin offering upon the side of the altar; and the rest of the blood shall be wrung out at the bottom of the altar: it is a sin offering. And he shall offer the second for a burnt offering, according to the manner: and the priest shall make an atonement for him for his sin which he hath sinned, and it shall be forgiven him."

2. Cf. **Leviticus 12:6-8**.

b) Earlier in Jesus' ministry, He cleansed the temple, and John writes, "And said unto them that sold doves, *Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise.*" (John 2:16)

c) Jesus was angry with the way they were treating the poor.

1. **Ps 82:3-4** says, "Defend the poor and fatherless: do justice to the afflicted and needy. Deliver the poor and needy: rid them out of the hand of the wicked."
2. **Prov 14:31** says, "He that oppresseth the poor reproacheth his Maker: but he that honoureth him hath mercy on the poor."
3. **Prov 19:17** says, "He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again."
4. **Prov 28:6** says, "Better is the poor that walketh in his uprightness, than he that is perverse in his ways, though he be rich."
5. **Ezek 16:49-50** says, "Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me: therefore I took them away as I saw good."

c. The currency exchange for a large fee.

- 1) The moneychangers were there because you could only give to God temple shekels.

- a) They considered the Roman currency as unclean and you could not give it to God, so they would take your Roman coins and give you the temple shekels in exchange with a 20% exchange fee.

4. **Q** = Is there anything in your "Temple" that needs to be cleansed?...

C. Cursing a Fig Tree – pt. 2. (v. 20-26)

1. "In the morning" – Tuesday.

2. **NOTE:** Jesus is not saying...

- a. Name it and claim it.
- b. Blab it and grab it.
- c. Say it and take it.

3. **KEY:** Jesus is talking to His disciples.

- a. What makes a disciple?
 - 1) Deny yourself.
 - 2) Take up your cross.
 - 3) Be following Him.
- b. **KEY:** Prayer is not to get my will accomplished, but God's will.

4. Jesus is saying: If you're a disciple, you will pray according to God's will, and it will be granted to you.

- a. **James 4:2-3 says, "...ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts."**
- b. **1 John 5:14-15 says, "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him."**

5. (v. 25-26)

- a. This is straight forward teaching by Jesus.
- b. If you don't forgive others, your Father won't forgive you.
 - 1) **Q** = What does that mean?... Exactly what it says.
 - a) I won't change what Jesus said.

- b) I won't take away from what Jesus said.
- 2) **Q** = Where's grace? I don't know. Just forgive.
- c. If you're not forgiving others, I have to question whether or not you have been truly forgiven.
 - 1) Cf. **Matthew 18:23-35**.

III. Our Wise King. (v. 27-33)