

GOOD NEWS

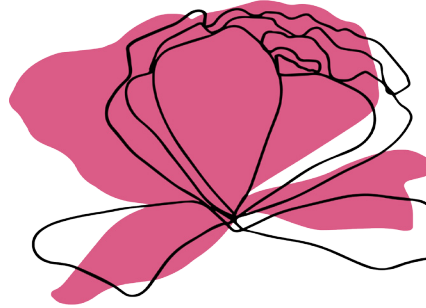
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WINTER/SPRING 2022

WHAT A WEEK!

“**H**osanna!
‘Blessed is He
who comes in
the name of
the Lord!’”

MARK 11:9b



“**T**herefore I say to you,
whatever things you ask when
you pray, believe that you receive
them, and you will have them.”

Mark 11:24

MARK 11:1-16, 20

“*And whenever you stand praying, if
you have anything against anyone, forgive
him, that your Father in heaven may also
forgive you your trespasses.*”

Mark 11:25

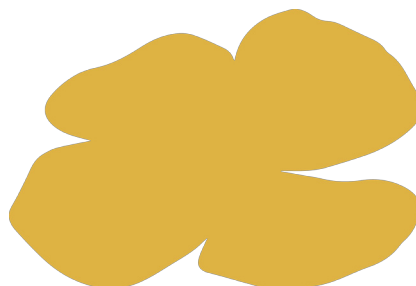
Mark

IN OTHER NEWS

TODAY'S WEATHER



PARTLY SUNNY
Cooler today with partly cloudy skies.



HORSE THIEF?

Villagers question disciples
about a loosed colt near the
Mount of Olives. Disciples reply,
“The Lord has need of it.”

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WHAT A WEEK!

MARK 11:1-16, 20

My daughter loves horses. Unfortunately for her, we had no land and no horse. A neighbor would let her ride their horse on occasion, and her passion only grew.

One day, my husband came home to tell me about a man he met. This man's daughters attended Horse 4-H, where girls rode horses and were trained in all areas of horsemanship. Upon hearing about our daughter, he invited her to come and see. I was against it. We had no horse, so why torture the kid with watching other girls ride their horses? What was the point? We were busy enough already.

My husband decided to take her anyway. She attended the first meeting and watched in awe. The gentleman and his family were touched by her passion, and offered to let her ride one of their ponies so she could join the group and participate. For the next two years, she went to the 4-H meetings, and for every meeting, this family would trailer over an extra pony for her to borrow.

Her horsemanship skills skyrocketed. She began winning horse tack in games, or given gear at horse day camps. She brought it home and collected it all in a pile in the corner of her bedroom. Occasionally, she would ask in dejection, "Do you think I should even save this stuff, mom? I'm probably never going to get a horse." I would reply honestly, "I don't know", but encouraged her to pray.

After two years, though, a problem was on the horizon. She was growing up, and getting too big to ride the pony any more. Everyone in the 4-H group sympathized, but what could be done?

Then, just in time, it happened.

The neighbor who would let my daughter ride on occasion could no longer care for her beloved

quarter horse. She couldn't bring herself to sell it, and she knew my daughter loved that horse. So she offered to give the horse, with the saddle, bits, reins—the whole nine yards—to my daughter, free of charge. We graciously accepted on the condition we found a place to keep the horse, which worked out perfectly as well.

It's been a few years now. As I write this, my daughter is actually out riding her "God" horse in a competition. Once again, she prays, for her horse is getting too old to be ridden is such a way. But God has provided for her before, and He will again. It is simply the "how" of it we don't know yet.

See:

1. God gave her a passion.
2. God prepared her. We had no horse skills, but for two years my daughter was trained on how to care for a horse, train a horse, and ride safely. When a horse came, she was ready to own it. Her time with that pony was precious, but it was just a fraction of the joy that was to come. That pile of horse gear that accumulated in her bedroom, in hindsight, touches me with the promise that it was.
3. God had supplied the means of provision before we even knew there was a need. We had no clue there was a horse in our future...and we live on a city lot! We didn't know we even had a need. But God knew. He knew how He made our daughter, what she needed for the future He had prepared, and how He would provide it.
4. God fulfills all His purposes.

This week we are studying Jesus' final week, crucifixion, and resurrection. Let us see that God prepared a Way for us, before we even knew we had a need. He readied us beforehand with tastes of what was to come, so we would recognize the Real Deal when He came along. And, finally, God completely

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fulfills all His purposes. He leaves nothing undone or incomplete, but is instead, the “*Author and Finisher of our faith*” (Hebrews 12:2).

The Passover

Welcome to Jerusalem. This is the final week before Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection. Not coincidentally, it is also the week of Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Read Exodus 12:1-14, 21-27.

Israel has been in Egypt for 430 years, and even after nine horrible plagues, Pharaoh still refuses to let God’s people go free, choosing to keep them enslaved. This last tenth plague is particularly horrific.

1. What is the tenth plague (v.12)?

God’s judgment is coming. He has seen His people abused and heard their prayers. Pharaoh has refused to obey God, and the wages of his stubbornness is death. But God has prepared a way of salvation.

2. What can people do so that the judgment of death passes over (v.12-23)?

3. What is the outcome of this tenth plague (v.29-31, 41-42)?

Israel is saved! Set free! They will remember this night, and continue to celebrate Passover each year, remembering how God delivered them out of bondage. Each family will yearly select a lamb, slaughter it, and eat the Seder (Passover) meal. They will remember how they were saved from judgment and set free by the blood of the lamb, who died so that they might live.

The Lamb Arrives

Enter Jesus into Jerusalem 1500+ years later. It is Passover time again.

Read Mark 11:1-11.

4. Who is entering Jerusalem (v.11)?

5. What is He riding on (v.7)?

A **colt** is untamed, unbroken, and has never been ridden before.

6. Matthew 21 lets us know that this was a donkey. Why might Jesus enter Jerusalem on a donkey’s colt, instead of a magnificent stallion?

Jesus did not enter Jerusalem that week as a conqueror or a man of war, but instead as Messiah, a Man of Peace, the Lamb of God.

7. What did the people yell (v.9)?

8. What does **Hosanna** mean? (Look it up in your Bible dictionary or concordance)

Perhaps the people hoped Jesus would save them from the Romans, but this week was not about that, but something greater.

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9. When Jesus comes again in Revelation 19:11, what does He ride on? Why?

The Lamb Chosen

Many scholars believe Jesus entered Jerusalem on Nisan 10. Look back at Exodus 12:3, 5-6. Nisan 10 was Lamb Selection Day. The lambs to be sacrificed for Passover were traditionally brought from Bethlehem into Jerusalem on that date. The lambs were then selected by each family, put on public display, and inspected for the next four days to make sure they were spotless, and without blemish.

10. What does John say in John 1:29 NKJV? “Behold! The _____ of _____ who takes away the _____ of the _____.”

For 1500 years, the Jews had been selecting lambs and celebrating Passover, unaware that there was a better Lamb to come. For all those years, the feast was a wonderful remembrance, a nice tradition—but it was so much more than that. It was a foreshadowing of the salvation to come. Deliverance from Egypt was awesome, but Jesus would deliver them from a harsher master—sin and death (Romans 8:1-2). Passover was yet another confirmation of Jesus’ true identity as Messiah.

The Lamb Inspected

Over the next several days, Jesus enters Jerusalem and the temple daily (Mark 14:49). The Lamb is on full display, and the Pharisees are hoping they can find fault with Him, for they are envious of His power and threatened by His popularity.

Read Mark 12:12-13. The Pharisees, chief priests,

Sadducees, and scribes hate Jesus, but have no reason to kill Him.

11. What are they trying to do in verse 13? (NKJV)
“_____ Him in His _____.”

12. Does it work (v.28)?

Read Mark 14:55-65.

God’s own high priests have taken His Son to murder Him. It is overwhelming and so, so wrong. Fill in the blanks from verses 55-56 NKJV.

13. “Now the chief priests and all the council sought _____ against Jesus to put Him to _____, but found _____. For many bore _____ witness against Him, but their testimonies did not agree.”

14. **Read John 18:28-30.** What meal are the Pharisees not wanting to defile themselves for so they can still partake in it?

15. Pilate asks, “What accusation do you bring against this man?” Are the Pharisees able to give a real answer?

16. **Read John 19:4 NKJV.** What is Pilate’s judgment of Jesus?
“I find _____.”

17. **Read 1 Peter 1:18-19 NKJV** and fill in the blanks.

“...you were not redeemed with corruptible things... but with the precious _____ of _____ as of a _____ without _____ and without _____.”

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Jesus was the perfect, spotless Lamb of God--without sin. The Pharisees don't want to defile themselves for Passover, while they are busy murdering the fulfillment of Passover—the Lamb of God who came to set them free.

The Lamb Sacrificed

Read Mark 15 out loud.

18. Fill in the blanks from 1 Corinthians 5:7b NKJV.
“For indeed, Christ, our _____, was sacrificed for _____.”

19. 1 Peter 3:18 (RSV) “For Christ died for sins _____ for _____, the _____ for the _____ to bring _____ to _____.”

20. What does Jesus say just before He dies (John 19:30)?

Read Luke 24:44.

21. How many things did Jesus fulfill? Did He leave anything unfinished or unmet?

22. The work is finished. What does that mean to you?

Spend some time thanking God for the sacrifice of His Son.

The Firstfruit

Good News! Jesus didn't stay dead! The following Sunday He rose from the grave. Again, *uncoincidentally*, this was the day of the Feast of Firstfruits.

“At this festival, the Israelites offered the very first sheaf of the harvest and were not allowed to eat anything from the crop until they gave of its initial portion to the Lord...they would be giving the offering of firstfruits at a time when not much was ready to be harvested. They had to trust God that He would indeed provide the fullness of grain that had yet to come forth.” –Ligionier.org

23. 1 Corinthians 15:20-23 NKJV

“But now _____ is risen from the dead, and has become the _____ of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order: Christ the _____, afterwards those who are Christ's at His _____.”

24. What does it mean that Jesus is our *firstfruits*? (You may need to look in a concordance or Bible dictionary.)

This hope we have as an anchor of our souls: Jesus. He is the fulfillment of all things that were and will be. Passover was a promise and sign of a better salvation to come, just as my daughter's bucket of horse tack and pony rides were a promise of a greater joy. There may be things in your life that are promises of something better—things we don't even know have a greater fulfillment. Yet God so completely works things together that there comes a day when we look back and see how so much of our experiences were

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shadows of what was coming—a preview of what He was about to do. Don't give up hope! Jesus has gone before us and is coming again. He is the perfect Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world and sets us free from the law of sin and death.

Jesus has set us free and forgiven our sins completely and removed them as far as the east is from the west. By His blood, judgment has passed over us and we are accepted as children of God. The work is complete, our hope sure. Whomever the Son sets free is free indeed.

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MY EVANGELISM JOURNAL

“Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of His return is drawing near.”

Hebrews 10:24-25
NLT

THE RETURN OF THE LORD IS DRAWING NEAR!

We spent our Fall semester writing letters to answer a “Dear Abigail” column, to help us understand how to share the GOOD NEWS! Now we are putting into action what we have practiced.

Answer the following questions each week and share in your group time that you may encourage one another!

1. Pray and ask the Lord to put someone on your heart that needs to know about the GOOD NEWS! (It may be a stranger that will cross your path.) Write their name here.

2. *Each* morning, pray that God will open your eyes to opportunities. Write any opportunities you had this week.

3. What have you learned about yourself this week as you shared the GOOD NEWS? Was it easier than you thought? More difficult? Did you miss an opportunity?

4. *Praise* the Lord for what He taught you about evangelism this week. Would you have changed your approach? *Continue* to pray for those you shared with, and *trust* the Holy Spirit to continue the work. *Confess* if you felt afraid or weak or if you avoided sharing altogether and then *start afresh* next week. He is FAITHFUL!

WORD SEARCH

MARK

A B N H R P L B D Z V Q I L Y Q K B K L I D W N
S M G R W F H A C T K N V I R N D W N I I P F S
P X T T W V I Q D M L M E F D Y T D P Z Y K I V
H I I D C T L L G I E C X R E V L S Y I H Q G O
A C P R H K D T V L T N H R N W D M N I A V T V
C K C H A X M Z A E P C M F Q Q P N P I H P R F
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D X T O G R U X N O I T A L U B I R T O K V S E
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N L X G L E J A F S A V B K M C W I R M K B N L
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T J Z D V H N O B Z R K Y B R C F X L M Q Y C F
I V B L I M T Q T T C M B G J T H R I L E Z U O
O I L W A W S A H S B B S C Y E G O W T T X Y T
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T M O S H S P L B F D A N H G L U E J M I S T G
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Y H A Y J O C L U J V J B V O N K P W R O Q B G
X Y U N Z J K W R A S E A C Y C Y O M E F N B A
H H K L S D U P X Y X Q B Q D P D B V V A N O H
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PILATE

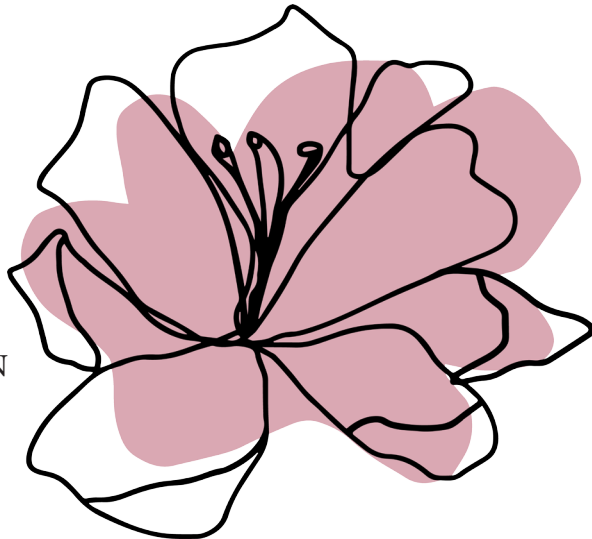
TEMPLE

CORNERSTONE

JERUSALEM

CONDEMNATION

BETHANY



FORGIVE

HOSANNA

TRIBULATION

CAESAR

FIG TREE

MT OF OLIVES

Answers are on page 109

