

Introduction: Pg. _____

**“No More Secrets”
Mark 11:1-11**

Intro

It has been a really hard two weeks. COVID is on the rise around the world. Hospitals are filled and flooded in parts of our country and around the world. Case counts are going up locally, leading to some mask mandates coming back.

Then you have Afghanistan. Their people now live under the oppressive rule of the Taliban. The indelible scenes from the past week where people at the Kabul airport were hanging onto the wheels of US Cargo Aircraft in hopes of fleeing the country reveal the desperate and tragic nature of the Afghan people.

Then, we can shift our attention to the Western Hemisphere, where the people of Haiti suffered under an earthquake measuring 7.2 on the Richter scale. Over 2,000 people died, and the number is likely much, much higher than that. This was, of course, just weeks after their President was assassinated leading to increasing unrest in the country.

That is why we need the picture of Jesus we find in Mark 11:1-11

The world needs a Savior. Mark 11 tells us: Jesus has come!

The world needs just and wise Leaders. Mark 11 tells us: Jesus is the King, not just of a nation, but all nations!

Mark 11:1-11 (text displayed)

The Point: It's no secret: Jesus is King. Worship Him!

CONTEXT

- Chapter 11 begins the last major section of Mark's Gospel.
- We know Jesus' journey to Jerusalem begin in 8:27! He now rides into Jerusalem and launches his Passion week, where he will be crucified for the "sin of the world." (John 1:29)
- Some people have called Mark a Passion narrative with a long introduction because he devotes so much attention to the final week of Jesus life.
- This story sets the tone for the "climactic significance of these events." (Strauss)

What does it teach us about Jesus? I want to give you four truths about [King] Jesus before we consider our response to the revelation of who he is. #1

1. Jesus is in complete control. (11:1-4)

Mount of Olives

- Jesus and his disciples, like hundreds and thousands of others, walked from Jericho (over 800 feet below sea level) to Jerusalem (nearly 3,000 feet above sea level).
- When you reach the Mount of Olives on this arduous journey, you see the glorious sign of Jerusalem for the first time. Remember, Jerusalem was the site of all Jewish festivals, because it was the place of worship. The sense of excitement for these travelers would have hit a tipping point.
- It is in this moment that Jesus tells two of his disciples in verse 2, to go into the village in front of them and get colt they find there.

Jesus Plan to Ride into the City

- Matthew and John tell us the “colt” Jesus speaks of was a donkey.
- “The colt is described as one on which “no one has ever sat.” The idea seems to be one of purity. [An ancient Jewish writing,] the Mishnah, says that the king’s horse cannot be ridden by anyone except the king.” (Strauss)
- We cannot be sure if Jesus leans on supernatural knowledge to direct his disciples to get the colt, or if that was prearranged with the owner. You could read the text either way.
- The point is this: Jesus is working his plan. This was calculated. Jesus effectively says, “I know what I’m doing. I know what is about to happen. I know what I’m communicating. The time is now.”
- And what is he doing? He’s riding into Jerusalem to die for his people.
- What did Jesus tell us in Mark 10:45? “For the Son of Man did not come to serve but to be served and give his life as a ransom for many.” Just as he told his disciples three time in advance in 8:31-33; 9:30-32; 10:32-34

Jesus is saying: “I know what I’m doing. I am the king who is coming, but I am the king coming to die. I am in complete control!

Why is this such good news for us?

- If the last 18 months has taught us anything it is this: We are NOT in control. Our arms are not big enough to wrap around the world. We don’t know what tomorrow holds.
- Make plans. Watch them disrupted or even crumble.
- But... not Christ Jesus. His plan for our world can never be touched!

T: We need a sovereign God. We need a God who can stare into the face of crucifixion with confidence! We need a God who is in complete control. We also need a God who keeps his promises.

2. Jesus is the promised king. (11:5-7)

This whole conversation about finding a colt on which no one has ever sat, seems a little interesting, if not surprising. Jesus, if your intention is to announce yourself as King, why a colt?

A few historical notes will help us understand the significance of Jesus’ action.

- Kim Huat Tan points out that in ancient times, when people made their way into the city of Jerusalem, they walked on foot. This was the unspoken rule that governed the actions of

citizens, visitors, and even nobility. This was due to the sacred nature of the city, the temple represented the dwelling place of God with his people. People did not ride into the city.

- **In this regard, Jesus' action of riding into Jerusalem is extremely provocative. - (Tan, 151)**
- Moreover, we never see Jesus riding on an animal anywhere in the gospels. That should help us see: something very special and very intentional is happening when Jesus says, "Go, get the colt."
- Added to that, there is no other time recorded in Scripture where someone rides into Jerusalem, except one. That would be when Solomon was anointed and crowned as king, riding into music and rejoicing and shouts: "Long live King Solomon!" (1 Kings 1:33-34)
- But most importantly, God spoke these words through the prophet Zechariah more than 5 centuries before Jesus came into the world.

**"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation is he,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey."
(Zechariah 9:9)**

You can't tell me Jesus didn't know what he was doing when he sent two of his disciples: "Go, get the colt." HA!!

The King is coming! I am the promised King. I am your reason to rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! And shout aloud, because I am righteous and I bring salvation.

EXPOUND?

What do we learn about Jesus?

3. Jesus is the humble king. (11:7-8)

Why not a chariot?

Why not a royal horse?

Why not a war horse?

Why not the best horse that could be found from the masses of people who followed Jesus?

By the appearance of it all, there seems to be nothing majestic about this scene.

But . . . Jesus is the humble king. What did Zechariah 9:9 say?

**"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Behold, your king is coming to you;**

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(Zechariah 9:9)**

Humility takes the posture of a servant. Humility puts others before themselves. Humility means laying down our life to do things God's way.

The life of Christ was marked by humility:

- Think about it: Jesus was not always called Jesus. Before time began, before the first people were made by God, the Son of God eternally existed in unmatched glory. The Son of God left eternal glory to become a baby, to take on our weaknesses. We call this the “incarnation,” the moment the eternal son of God became a son of man. We call this infinite humility.
- But this baby was born to die.
 - Philippians 2:5-8: “Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”
 - He humbled himself to the point of death. He died because of us, for my sin, for your sin.
 - We are able to receive the gift of forgiveness and eternal life because Jesus is the humble king. If you haven't yet received it, do so today!
- And now... he is doing the humble work of intercession. He sits at the right hand of God representing us before God the Father. That is WILD humility! (Praise the pre-service prayer team)
- The one who spoke the world into existence (John 1:1) and who is the radiance of God's glory and the exact imprint of his nature (Heb 1:3), this Christ... did that, rode on the back of a donkey less than 1 year old.
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BUT... this humble king is the king and he receives extravagant honor!

Look at what happens in 7-8: “And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks...”

The people are essentially rolling out the “red carpet” for Jesus.

- Spreading out the clothes (that's what a cloak was, an outer garment - like a robe or long jacket) on the road was a sign of allegiance and honor. It was an act reserved for kings as we see when Jehu was anointed in 2 King 9:11-13.
- Cutting off leafy branches, some translations tell us they were palms which is why the church celebrates Palm Sunday before Easter Sunday, these branches being waved and placed in the path for Jesus and his donkey served the same purpose as the cloaks.

T: This was to honor the one they saw as the coming deliverer, the coming king, and that is made explicit in vv. 9-11.

4. Jesus is the coming deliverer. (11:9-11)

If there is any doubt Jesus intends to end the messianic secret, the response of the crowd puts that doubt to rest.

We know the disciples believe Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, the coming deliverer of God's people. When Jesus asked them in 8:29, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter replied, "You are the Christ."

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- Clearly, the disciples were not alone in this belief. Look at this scene!
- Mark says, Jesus is surrounded with people before him and people following him. John calls them a "large crowd." (12:12) Luke says, "the whole multitude." (19:37). People were everywhere! Smiling, singing, and shouting!
- What were they shouting? HOSANNA! HO-SHA-NA!!
 - The typical meaning of the word is a prayer, which means: "save us now."
 - It is a prayer for salvation!
 - For the Jews living under tyrannical and oppressive Roman rule, their prayer would have carried a sense of desperation. HOSANNA! SAVE US!
 - This prayer comes from Psalm 118:25-26. **"Save us, we pray, O Lord! O Lord, we pray, give us success! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! We bless you from the house of the Lord." (Psalm 118:25-26)**
 - Do you hear the echo in verse 9? "Blessed is he who come in the name of the Lord!" Our deliverer is here! The Jews expected the Messiah to be a deliverer who would be a descendant of David. That's why their next shout said, ""Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!"
 - But the term here carries another sense, that of praise!
 - As it was used in Jewish worship, it also became a general term of praise. That seems to be the way it is primarily used here.
 - Look at the final phrase captured by Mark in verse 10: "Hosanna in the highest!" Praise to God in the highest, sounds more like "glory to God in the highest." And makes more sense than "save us now in the highest."
 - This is clear by some of the Pharisees in the crowd, (the Pharisees were religious leaders who opposed Jesus) who, as Luke tells us, said to Jesus in these very moments: "Teacher, rebuke you're disciples." How did Jesus reply: "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out!" (Luke 19:39-40)
 - Translation: Nothing can stop my praise! Translation: No more secrets!! HA!

N.T. Wright captures the heart of what is going on here: "Hosanna' is a Hebrew word which mixes exuberant praise to God with the prayer that God will save his people, and do so right away."

It is both: a cry for salvation and a cry of praise! It is a cry to the one they saw as their long anticipated King.

This story told the people walking those dusty roads, as it speaks to us today...

The Point: It's no secret: Jesus is king. Worship Him!

Conclusion:

As Pedro and the team come to help us respond to what we've heard, I have a few final words of encouragement!

Because Jesus is king, worship him with...

- **Confidence!**

Listen, no matter how out of control your life may seem, Jesus is in control. He reigns over every detail of our world, including our tiny little lives. EXPOUND?

Because Jesus is king, worship him with...

- **Confidence!**
- **Complete devotion!**

When the people saw Jesus as King, their response was spontaneous and unreserved. "Jesus, I may not have much, but I'll bring what I've got! I'll give you the shirt off my back and the palms just off the side of the road!" What a picture of worship.

This is so important all of the time, but especially in these times. Bring what you've got. Bring your best. And... when we see him truly for who he is, our worship will be characterized with...

Because Jesus is king, worship him with...

- **Confidence!**
- **Complete devotion!**
- **Exuberant Joy!**

What were the crowds doing? SHOUTING! What were the crowds doing? SINGING! Let's hold nothing back. Let's seek God daily with passion and joy. It is okay to smile when you sing. If people think you're weird, it's okay. You're not singing for them anyway. It's okay to laugh in worship. It's okay to raise your hands. It's okay to pump your fists! It's okay to dance around and jump. God is after an authentic response of our hearts.

Whatever exuberant joy looks like (and we totally celebrate that exuberance looks different for different people), worship with JOY!

Because Jesus is king, worship him with...

- **Confidence!**
- **Complete devotion!**
- **Exuberant Joy!**
- **Generosity!**

This is implied in at least two ways... #1) The shouts of praise. Shouts naturally grab attention. Shouts, naturally invite others to see what all the fuss is about. #2) In this action, once again, Jesus is saying: "No more secrets."

Is your faith a secret? Or does your faith shout? Do your neighbors, friends, and co-workers know that Jesus is the greatest priority of your life, that he changes everything for you?

Worship with generosity by inviting other people into the LIFE & JOY & PEACE that you have found in Jesus.

I know COVID has weakened our "missional muscles." The atrophy is real. It's time for that to end. It's time to love the people around us. It's time to point them to Jesus. Our Fall Kickoff, in a few weeks, is going to be a great Sunday to get back in the missional game. Be praying now for who you can invite then, but you don't have to wait. Be led by God's Spirit. Serve and share with increasing generosity!

As I picture Jesus riding into Jerusalem, I have another picture in my mind. I see him riding into Boston. I see him coming to save. I see him coming to heal and restore. I see him coming to bring the victory!

Our shouts of praise are a cry for salvation. Jesus, would you ride in again? Would you save the people I've been praying for - for years? Would you heal people from their addiction and anxiety? Would you do it again?!

Before Pedro and the Team lead us in a song, I want to invite you to pray. Whatever God is placing on your heart, whoever God is placing on your heart, begin to voice a prayer to God. This is your moment. This is our moment. Let's cry out to our King.