

Jesus—Mark 11:1-14

The Triumphal Entry; Cursing the Fig Tree

I. Additional Scriptures/Notes...

1. Parallels... Mt 21:1-11; Luke 19:29-44; John 12:12-19.
2. **Verse 1... BETHPHAGE**—"A small town near Bethany, on the SE slope of the Mt. of Olives. It is mentioned nowhere else in Scripture except in connection with Christ's triumphal entry (Mk 11:1; Lk 19:29)" [*MacArthur Study Bible*, p. 1431].
BETHANY--"It was situated "at" the Mount of Olives, [Mar 11:1](#); [Luk 19:29](#), about fifteen stadia, (furlongs, that is, 1 1/2 or 2 miles), from Jerusalem, [Joh 11:18](#), on, or near, the usual road from Jericho to the city, [Luk 19:29](#)" [*Smith's Bible Dictionary*].
MOUNT OF OLIVES—"A place where olive trees grew. This hill, which consists of four peaks, is separated from Jerusalem by the Kidron valley and to its summit from Jerusalem was a Sabbath-day's journey (Acts 1:12)" [*The New Analytical Bible and Dictionary of the Bible*].
3. **Verse 2...** Matthew's account mentions bringing two animals—i.e., an ass and a colt (Mt 21:2-3). /// "Yet there is fitness and dignity in the use of 'a colt whereon never man sat,' and it reminds us of other facts, such as that He was the firstborn of a virgin mother, and rested in a tomb which corruption had never soiled." [*The Expositor Bible Commentaries*].
4. **Verses 4-5...** Fulfillment of prophecy, cf., Zechariah 9:9.
5. **Verses 9-10...** Cf., Ps 118:25-26. "Everything about the crowd's use of Psalm 118 indicates a belief that Jesus was the Messiah"[Kenneth L. Chumbley, *The Gospel of Matthew*, p. 369]. /// Cf., John 12:17... "The impressive entry was observed by those who had been present when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, and they were now even more impressed with him. It is significant that the verb 'bare,' is in the imperfect tense, literally WERE BEARING witness" [Guy N. Woods, *The Gospel According to John*, p. 260].
6. **Verse 10...** "The Evangelists give us the various cries of the multitude, for they did not all cry one thing ([#Mr 11:9,10](#) [Mt 21:9](#) [Lu 19:38](#) [Joh 12:13](#)). The cries, if seriously construed, were a fore-recognition of the Messiahship of Jesus, but popular cries are soon caught up and are as fickle as the impulses which beget them. But the public recognition of the Messiahship of Jesus gave weight to the accusation made by Simon Peter on the day of Pentecost that they had slain the Messiah ([#Ac 2:36](#)). Compare [#Ac 3:14,15](#)." [McGarvey, *The Fourfold Gospel*].
7. **Verse 14...** "Jesus' direct address to the tree personified it and condemned it for not providing what its appearance promised. ... Here, Jesus cursed the tree for its misleading appearance that suggested great productivity without providing it. It should have been full of fruit, but it was barren. The fig tree was frequently an OT type of the Jewish nation (Hos 9:10; Nah 3:12; Zech 3:10)..." [*MacArthur Study Bible*, p. 1485]. /// "Retribution fell upon it not for its lack of fruit, since at that season it shared this with all its tribe, but for ostentatious, much-professing fruitlessness." [*The Expositor Bible Commentaries*].

II. Chronology.

BIBLE PERIOD: **Period of the Christ.**

“The account of this week occupies fully the last half of the Fourth Gospel (John 12–21) and roughly the last one-third of both Matthew (Mt 21--28) and Mark (Mark 11--16). Early in his own Gospel, Luke announces that Jesus ‘set His face to go to Jerusalem’ (Luke 9:51). As Jesus determined to move steadfastly toward Jerusalem, He thus moved toward His own death. The final week of His life is often called ‘Passion Week,’ an appropriate name since the word ‘passion’ is derived from the Latin word for ‘suffering.’” [*The Life and Times Historical Reference Bible*, p. 1394]. /// “For his spectacular reconstruction of the temple Herod the Great prepared a platform more than 33 acres in size, five times the area of the Acropolis in Athens. The result was a temple precinct that included courts, porches, a fortress, and other buildings in addition to the sanctuary. Each year at Passover more than 100,000 pilgrims visited Herod’s Temple Mount for the feast. Thus Jesus observed a crowded and busy scene (Mk 11:11)” [*Ibid*, p. 1397]. /// “Christ’s arrival at Jerusalem triggered a series of symbolic actions that accomplished two things: they implicitly asserted His claim that He is the Christ, while showing He was not the political Messiah many wanted” [Kenneth L. Chumbley, *The Gospel of Matthew*, p. 366].

III. Summary.

This reading is at the beginning of the so-called “Passion Week.” We have Jesus entering into the city of Jerusalem in a way that fulfills prophecy. The people were filled with joy and shouted out their praises. In Luke’s account we see that the Pharisees asked Jesus to rebuke the disciples. The response of Jesus was: “I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out” (Lk 19:40). Evidently the cursing of the fig tree relates to the condition of the religious leaders of that day, who show similar traits to what could be observed in this particular fig tree.

IV. Outline.

1. Jesus sends disciples to bring a colt for His entrance into Jerusalem (Mk 11:1-6).
2. Jesus mounts the colt with a some of the disciples’ outer garments as a saddle (Mk 11:7).
3. Along the way garments were spread in the way and some cut down branches off the trees as a carpet for Jesus to ride upon (Mk 11:8).
4. Psalm 118:25-26 was cried out by the disciples (Mk 11:9-10).
5. Jesus appears briefly at the temple and then goes to Bethany (Mk 11:11).
6. The next day Jesus curses a fig tree that showed it should have fruit, but bore no figs (Mk 11:12-14).

V. Questions.

True or False

01. _____ The account of Jesus’ final entry into Jerusalem is covered by Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.
02. _____ The disciples heard Jesus speak to a fig tree.
03. _____ The twelve apostles were sent after an animal for Jesus to ride into Jerusalem.
04. _____ Jesus stayed away from the temple on the day he first entered Jerusalem.
05. _____ Mark records Jesus’ statement about stones crying out.

Who/What? Who Said It? Who Did It? Who Wrote It?

06. _____ Rode a colt on which no man had sat.
07. _____ Reveals that some of the crowd had seen Jesus raise Lazarus.
08. _____ Reveals that there were two animals brought to Jesus.
09. _____ Cried: “Hosanna...”
10. _____ Was hungry.

Fill in the Blanks

11. "...Say ye that the _____ hath _____ of him..."
12. "And many spread their _____ in the way..."
13. "...and now the eventide was come, he went out unto _____ with the twelve."
14. "...he found nothing but _____..."
15. "...No man eat _____ of _____ hereafter for ever..."

Each Question is worth 7 Points

My Score is: _____

Answers will be found on next week's handout

VI. Lessons & Applications.

1. **...The Lord hath need of him...** (Mk 11:3). This statement that Jesus told the two disciples to answer with seems strange to our ears. That Jesus has need of something from anyone else is only to be understood in a certain way—that is in connection with saving man. Jesus would fulfill the prophecies relating to the Messiah. One of those prophecies involved the particular way into which He would enter the city of Jerusalem (Zech 9:9). So in this sense, Jesus needed the use of the animal and needed someone to provide it. There is certainly a sense in which our Lord needs US today. He has given a plan for saving man and has given the commission to US for presenting the plan to every creature (Mk 16:15).
2. **And they said unto him even as Jesus had commanded...** (Mk 11:6). The two disciples had been given a mission by their Lord. They followed His instructions precisely. They did well in this. This phrase ought to be the manner in which we live our lives today: EVEN AS JESUS HAD COMMANDED. We need to have the authority of Jesus Christ for all that we do (Col 3:17).
3. **...Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord...** (Mk 11:9). There was a recognition here of the importance of the kingdom. Most did not understand the nature of the kingdom, but they knew it had been promised and they knew it was of the Lord. John informs us that many in this crowd had been present when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead (Jn 12:17). They had seen His miraculous power and they were thrilled that the Messiah was now come to Jerusalem. The excitement of these people is a tremendous excitement. We ought also to maintain this same level of excitement that we have our citizenship in heaven (Ph 3:20) because we are citizens of this kingdom!
4. **And Jesus answered and said unto it...** (Mk 11:14). Jesus is here speaking to a fig tree. This is most unusual! Jesus knew full well that the fig tree had no ears, so He must have been speaking to the fig tree in order to teach a lesson to the human beings present who did have ears. The comparison of this particular fig tree with the present religious leaders of the day is striking. There was on this fig tree leaves. Normally when there are leaves there are also figs. In this instance there were only leaves. It was a display much like the Pharisees' hypocrisy. It looked fruitful, but was not!
5. In this study of the beginning of the week of the crucifixion, we can see clearly the benefit of having four biographers of Jesus. Luke adds the statement Jesus made about the stones crying out (Lk 19:40). Matthew adds that there was the colt and its mother taken to Jesus (Mt 21:2-3). John makes known to us that some of the people in the crowd who were crying out His praises had actually seen one of His greatest miracles (Jn 12:17). What a great blessing it is that we have Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John to tell us about the life of Jesus Christ!!!

VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle.

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

[The highlighted words can be found above. They may be backwards, diagonal, upside down, etc. See if you can find them all. The more you use the words of the Bible, the greater blessed you will be! You might be surprised at how much this little exercise will help you retain important truths. THANK YOU for the good effort you are putting forth in Bible study. DRL]

Mark 11:7-10--⁷And they brought the **colt** to Jesus, and cast their **garments** on him; and he sat upon him. ⁸And many **spread** their garments in the way: and others cut down **branches** off the trees, and **strawed** them in the way. ⁹And they that went before, and they that followed, **cried**, saying, **Hosanna; Blessed** is he that **cometh** in the name of the Lord: ¹⁰Blessed *be* the **kingdom** of our father **David**, that cometh in the name of the Lord: Hosanna in the **highest**.