

Mark: The Storyteller's Gospel (Mark 11)

Wednesday, August 7, 2019 at 7:00 PM

Series objective

This series is designed to help us take a personal look at Jesus in a way that causes us look in the mirror. Most of us would admit that we would live very different lives if we lived every moment as if we were completely devoted to Christ, what He did for us, and the calling He has for our lives.

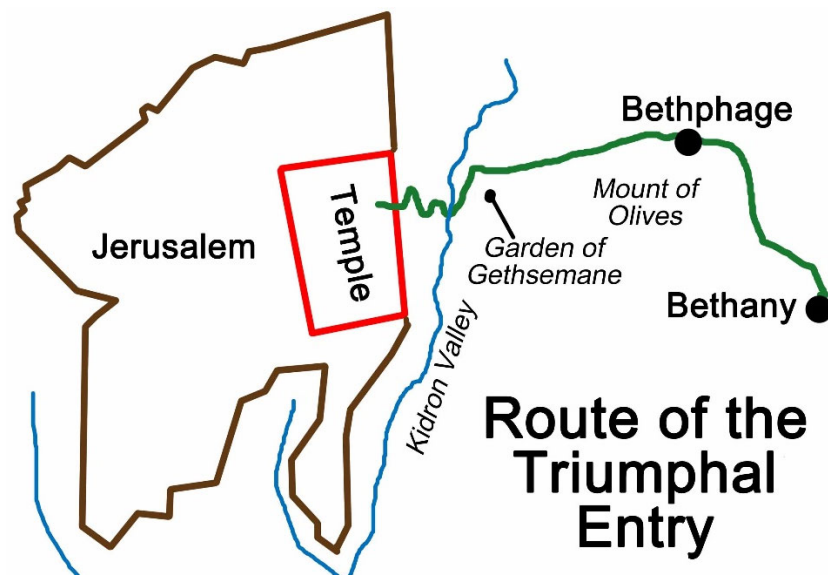
Overview of Chapter 11

Verse 1-11	Jesus comes to Jerusalem as King
Verse 12-26	Jesus curses a fig tree and clears the temple courts
Verse 27-33	The authority of Jesus questioned

1. In Zechariah 9:9 (see below) we read a prophecy about a king riding into Jerusalem on the foal a donkey, which parallels perfectly with Mark 11:1-11. What is ironic in seeing a king riding on a donkey in contrast to one riding on a horse? What does this say about Jesus?

⁹ Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!
Lo, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

2. The map below provides a view of Jerusalem during the time of Jesus, including the route Jesus might have taken into the city on Palm Sunday. What happened to all of the people who hailed Jesus as King, but within a single week would be silent at His crucifixion? What can we learn from their silence?



3. Verses 12 through 14 provide an interesting observation of Jesus' cursing of a fig tree. The judgment was clearly a result of the tree's lack of fruit. Are there any parallels on His judgment towards the tree and our lives as Christians? We are called to produce fruit as followers of Jesus. Consider Joh 15:1-8 and Galatians 5:22-23.

4. In verses 15 through 18 we read of Jesus' clearing of the Temple. What does this event say about Jesus' zeal for God and can we learn anything from His actions?

5. It can be said that faith is the very foundation of the Christian life, for without it there is no salvation. In verses 22 through 26 Jesus makes some pretty big claims about the power in having faith in God. How would you describe your faith in God and its impact on what you see God doing in your life?

6. I would imagine it had to be very frustrating for Jesus to constantly have His authority questioned, especially by a group of people who were supposed to be the "religious" of their day and claimed to know God. In verses 27-33 we see Jesus' masterful management of the questions posed to Him regarding His authority.
 - a. Why is having authority important? In answering, consider what happens to people who do not have authority.

 - b. It is easy to be critical of the Jewish religious leaders. However, I'm not sure it's worse to outright reject the authority of Jesus or reject His authority as His followers by not living daily for Him. How does (or should) our understanding of Jesus' authority impact the way we live our lives? In other words, how does recognizing Jesus as **The King** influence our response to Him as followers?

Our next study (next Wednesday, August 21)

Mark 12 is "action-packed" with content. What does it mean to you personally to *Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength* (Mark 12:30)?