

Mark



Lesson 13-Triumphal Entry, Temple Cleansing, Faith and Authority Focus: Mark 11:1-33

1. Jesus makes his triumphal entry into Jerusalem (v.1-11)

- a. (v.1-6) **Christ told his disciples what would happen even before it did happen** (v.2,3). *In sending His disciples He knew what they might encounter, and so He prepared them to deal with what was coming. Christ also tells us what is coming (What to expect; and what to prepare for) before it ever does come. Jesus wants His people to be prepared! (Amos 3:7; Isaiah 46:9,10; John 13:19; Hebrews 11:7). If we are willing to study God's word and to search for the truth we'll be able to know and get prepared for the things that are coming!*
- b. (v.7-11) **Jesus fulfilled the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9** here in this entry of His. The people recognized a fulfillment too. The people were rejoicing for what they were witnessing. The people praised God!! Many believed that Jesus was indeed the Messiah who was to come; However, a number of them still had wrong expectations as to what the Messiah should do when He had come. Many thought the Messiah would conquer the Romans and become their earthly king.
- c. (v.11) Christ came into the Temple and looked around to see what was happening. He was investigating the condition of His temple and the practices which were going on there. **Then He left and went to the town of Bethany.** He was likely going to spend the night with His friends Lazarus, Martha, and Mary (ref. John 12:1).

2. Jesus cursed the fig tree on the way back to Jerusalem the next day (v.12-14) *Perhaps we may wonder why Jesus cursed the tree that had no fruit on it (even though it was not quite the right season for fruit to be on a fig tree). Was He just angry at this tree? Was He impatient with it? We'll notice later that Jesus had a deeper lesson to teach His disciples.*

3. Jesus cleansed the Temple in Jerusalem (v.15-19)

- a. Jesus had pre-planned this event! It was not just an accidental thing that happened in one moment!! Just the day before He had **investigated the Temple** (v.11). Now it was time for **Judgment to be served!** Christ had desired to find a clean and pure Temple for worship and for prayer. But it was not so! **This led Him to a righteous indignation!** [to be upset for a righteous cause]. He was upset for this evil which had been done, and He was cleansing it. Jesus was zealous for God's cause (John 2:17). Jesus to the time to make a whip for driving out these men (John 2:15).
- b. (v.17) These people were practicing **corrupt religious things**. They had become a "den of thieves." They were robbing the people of their money, selling their own offerings to be used at the Temple for worship. Often they would not accept the offerings of the people, but would proclaim them unfit for worship—then the people would have to buy one of the offerings from the Temple—thus making more money for themselves instead of doing God's work faithfully. **Jesus was outraged at this dishonest, abominable practice.** They had made the religion of God

to stink by their corrupt practices. Jesus will be very upset with any who practice such corruption in His church today! All will have to answer to Him in the Judgment! *(this house was to be a house of prayer for ALL NATIONS—God desires every soul to know Him and to come worship Him). (Isaiah 56:7).*

- c. (v.18,19) The Scribes wanted to get Jesus, but there were too afraid of the people to do anything about Him. They were angry at Jesus because He exposed their wicked deeds and stood up for righteousness boldly!
- d. *Besides just cleansing an earthly temple, Jesus wants to cleanse our hearts and lives. He wants to drive out the sin from our souls, to place there instead, His sweet and Holy Spirit.*

4. Christ taught a lesson on Faith from the story of the fig tree (v.20-24, 25, 26)

- a. When we **have true faith** and trust in God then we can know that the obstacles or mountains we see in our lives will be overcome through Him. **We must believe in the power of God.** We must trust in the Almighty one who can and truly will deliver us. The “prayer of faith” coming from one of God’s obedient children is a powerful prayer indeed! (James 5:15-17). Prayers from willfully disobedient hearts do not hold any power though (Proverbs 15:8; 28:9). God will answer according to His perfect wisdom and will for the glory of His name. He may not always answer in the exact way we think He should, but He will answer us in the best way, as He sees fit to do so.
- b. The other lesson presented here in the death of this fig tree was to be an object lesson for all to consider; a lesson concerning Israel and the people of God in general. When God comes to His people He expects to find the fruit of righteousness in our lives. If we have not been bearing the fruit of righteousness, by the working of His righteous Spirit (and we only look like a green tree, but with no fruit produced), then we will meet the same end as the fig tree did—death! However, it need not be so. Jesus wants to work in our lives to produce the fruit of righteousness (Galatians 5:22, 23; Romans 8:12-14).
- c. On forgiveness (v.25,26), Jesus teaches us that we must always forgive one another even as He has done for us, and for His enemies (Luke 23:34). We must set things right with others—forgive by God’s grace and for His Grace’s sake!! **Our religion must be a practical one**—not merely a theoretical one (ref. Matthew 5:23,24).

- 5. **The question of authority (v.27-33)** The Pharisees questioned Jesus about the origin of His authority. Jesus did not bother to answer their question directly. He knew they would not receive His answer. They should have been able to recognize the authority and the working of God’s Spirit and power. It was very evident. However, these men were not willing to accept that conclusion. Jesus asked them a simple question in return. Was John the Baptist from God or not? If they were able to recognize God’s working through John, then they would be able to recognize Jesus as working through the same power and authority. However, they did not believe John’s words regarding Christ. The Pharisees were in a trap to answer Jesus (v.31-33). They did not believe John, and they were afraid to express that opinion publicly because all the people had recognized God’s power working in John. These men were afraid to lose their favor with the people.

Question (s) for the Heart:

Is it your earnest desire to have a pure heart and a life made clean by the grace of Jesus?_____ (To have the fruit of righteousness, and genuine trust in God?)