

WEEK # 27

Mark 11

Discussion Questions

From Tim Keller's Study Guide

Chapter 11 really begins the last chapter of Jesus' life. We notice that in chapter 10:46-52) he allows people (like blind Bartimaeus) to call him the Messiah openly. This can mean only one thing — nothing else needs to happen before he is crucified! He knows that an open declaration of his identity will lead to execution, so the countdown begins. Chapters 11 through 15 cover only a week

Read verses 1-6. A full six verses are devoted to finding a colt for Jesus to ride.

Read Zechariah 9:9. What does it teach us that Jesus has this so well planned out? What are some practical, personal applications for us?

In verse 2, Jesus makes it clear that this is a colt “which no one has ever ridden.” Why would that be of significance? What does it symbolize?

Read Verses 8-10. What do we learn from the response and cries of the crowd?

In the Old Testament, the fig tree was sometimes used to represent Israel (Hosea 9:10. Nahum 3:12).

Read verses 12-14 and 20-25. Why does Jesus curse the fig tree? Since it is a “living parable,” what does it mean for how we should live?

Read verses 12-19. a) Why does Jesus cleanse the temple? What does it teach us about Jesus, ourselves, and the gospel? b) How do the temple cleansing and the fig tree cursing relate to each other?

What is Jesus promising in verses 22-24 and requiring in verse 25? How does that follow from his judgement on the tree and temple?

Read verse 25. Reflect practically on Jesus' act of temple-cleansing. What can we learn here about the legitimate and illegitimate uses of anger?

In verse 11 Jesus does not simply ride in to Jerusalem. This verse shows his triumphal entry was actually to the Temple. Share from your reading: a) one insight that helps you most in understanding Jesus' mission, and b) one insight that helps you most in understanding the Christian life.

From Exalting Jesus in Mark

Some scholars contend that Jesus had arranged ahead of time for the donkey and colt to be available. Does this possibility affect the meaning of the text?

Did it seem like events were in control or out of control during Passion Week? How is it encouraging to know that Jesus was in control of those events?

What aspects of this fulfillment of prophecy could have been achieved by any ordinary man who set his mind to do so? What aspects could only have been miraculously fulfilled by the Son of God?

What leaders do you know who like to make a grand entrance? Do you know any leaders who arrive humbly? Which kind is the better leader?

Why didn't Jesus use His power and growing popularity to make a grand entrance? How might His ultimate mission have failed if He had done so?

What kind of Messiah did the people expect and want? What kind of savior do people want today—what do they want relief from? How does Jesus exceed those expectations?

Do you think you would have been among those who welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem with shouts of "Hosanna!"? Do you think you would have shouted "Crucify Him!" a few days later?

What would Jesus see if He came to your church and looked around?"

How was the magnificent temple in Jerusalem insufficient for the ultimate plan of God?

How can the church overcome those deficiencies?

How would you respond to someone who said Jesus was being unreasonable or even petulant when He cursed the fig tree?

How were the fig tree and the temple alike? Does your church exhibit any of those characteristics?

If hypocrisy always involves self-deception, how can a person find out if he is a hypocrite? If his church is hypocritical?

What is the definition of fruitlessness in regards to a Christian? a church? What "fruit" does God see in you and your church?

Which is worse, a secular rip-off or a religious rip-off? Why?
How is your church and doing with regard to including all nations?
Why do you think the chief priests and scribes did not apprehend Jesus immediately?
Were these valid and commendable reasons?

In what way is asking in prayer and forgiving in faith the opposite of what was taking place in the temple? Is your church exercising this kind of faith?

DIGGING DEEPER

[#36 Disenchanted With God - Larry Osborne - \(49:27\)](#)
[Sermon Notes and Discussion Guide](#)

[#37 - Here Comes The Judge! - Larry Osborne-\(50:26\)](#)
[Sermon notes and Discussion guide](#)

Bonus: This will also be available next week

[#38 - Who Does God Think He Is? - Chris Brown -\(53:56\)](#)
[Sermon notes and Discussion guide](#)

Alistair Begg

[The Coming Kingdom \(44:30\)](#)

[On the Temple \(31:39\)](#)

[Lessons from the Fig Tree - Part 1 - \(39:05\)](#)

[Lessons from the Fig Tree - Part 2 - \(40:12\)](#)

[The Authority of Jesus \(38:30\)](#)