



# MARK

*Following Jesus Immediately*

# Mark 11:1-11 - Jesus Comes to Jerusalem as King

11 As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, 2 saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. 3 If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.’” 4 They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, 5 some people standing there asked, “What are you doing, untying that colt?” 6 They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go. 7 When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. 8 Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. 9 Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted,

“Hosanna!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

<sup>10</sup> “Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!”

“Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

<sup>11</sup> Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the temple courts. He looked around at everything, but since it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the Twelve.

➤ **Jesus was walking out a perfectly timed plan. His entry into Jerusalem was not left to chance. He sent two disciples on a very specific errand and gave them a script to follow. He requested a colt that had never been ridden. Climbing onto the back of an unbroken animal for the first time seems like an odd choice at first, but we don't know the details of this trip. Perhaps Jesus showed His authority over all things and the colt moved calmly-or maybe He had a difficult ride.**

**1. Read Zechariah 9:9. How does Jesus fulfill this prophecy? And what does this tell us about Jesus?**

➤ **When Jesus began His ride down Mount Olives toward Jerusalem, the people began worshiping Him physically and verbally. Each of their actions and words was full of meaning.**

**2. Review 11:8-10. What three things did the people do to worship Jesus on His way toward Jerusalem?**

- 1. Look up the word *hosanna* (11.9) in a Hebrew lexicon. What were the people asking Jesus to do? <https://biblehub.com/greek/5614.htm>**
- 2. Read Psalm 118:25-29. How did the shouts of the people in Mark 11: 9-11 partially fulfill this messianic psalm?**
- 3. Why is using Scripture as worship powerful or meaningful?**
- 4. Make a list of worship songs you know that pull lyrics directly from Scripture.**

## Mark 11:12-25 - Jesus Curses a Fig Tree and Clears the Temple Courts

<sup>12</sup> The next day as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry. <sup>13</sup> Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to find out if it had any fruit. When he reached it, he found nothing but leaves, because it was not the season for figs. <sup>14</sup> Then he said to the tree, “May no one ever eat fruit from you again.” And his disciples heard him say it. <sup>15</sup> On reaching Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple courts and began driving out those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves, <sup>16</sup> and would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts. <sup>17</sup> And as he taught them, he said, “Is it not written: ‘My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations? But you have made it ‘a den of robbers.’” <sup>18</sup> The chief priests and the teachers of the law heard this and began looking for a way to kill him, for they feared him, because the whole crowd was amazed at his teaching. <sup>19</sup> When evening came, Jesus and his disciples went out of the city. <sup>20</sup> In the morning, as they went along, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots. <sup>21</sup> Peter remembered and said to Jesus, “Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered!” <sup>22</sup> “Have faith in God,” Jesus answered. <sup>23</sup> “Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. <sup>24</sup> Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. <sup>25</sup> And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.”

## **Mark 11:12-25**

- 1. Although it was not the season for figs (11:13), Jesus curses the fig tree. Why do you think Jesus does this? (Hint: What might the fig tree represent).**
- 2. List the four actions Jesus took in 11:15-16 and why is it significant?**
- 3. What two terms did Jesus use to describe the temple in 11:17?**
- 4. How did the crowd respond to Jesus's teaching in 11:18? How did the chief priests and scribes respond?**
- 5. Review 11:22-24. How might this passage be used wrongly if taken out of context?**

## Mark 11:27-33-The Authority of Jesus Questioned

27 They arrived again in Jerusalem, and while Jesus was walking in the temple courts, the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders came to him. 28 “By what authority are you doing these things?” they asked. “And who gave you authority to do this?” 29 Jesus replied, “I will ask you one question. Answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. 30 John’s baptism—was it from heaven, or of human origin? Tell me!” 31 They discussed it among themselves and said, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will ask, ‘Then why didn’t you believe him?’ 32 But if we say, ‘Of human origin’ ...” (They feared the people, for everyone held that John really was a prophet.) 33 So they answered Jesus, “We don’t know.” Jesus said, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.”

- **Even though the chief priests and scribes sought to destroy Jesus for driving out the money changers and turning over tables, He returned. The leaders met Him there and asked Him who authorized Him to do such things-in other words, “*Who sent you?*”**
  - **The scribes and Pharisees often asked Jesus questions in an effort to trap Him or turn the crowds against Him. Jesus skillfully pulled a similar move, turning the tables on them. In front, He asked them about the well-known, much revered John the Baptist.**
- 1. Review 11:31-32. What does the religious leaders internal dialogue reveal about their primary motives?**
  - 2. Have you ever tried to avoid the truth-either hearing it or speaking it-as an act of self-preservation? Describe the impact it had on you (emotionally, spiritually, physically, etc.).**
  - 3. Read John 3:17-21. How does the truth in this passage impact the way you view and approach God?**