

June 2nd, 2019
 The King's Arrival
 Mark 11:1-25

BIBLE IN A YEAR READING PLAN

May 26 Nehemiah 7	May 30 Esther 1-5
May 27 Nehemiah 8-9	May 31 Esther 6-10
May 28 Nehemiah 10-11	June 1 Job 1-4
May 29 Nehemiah 12-13	June 2 Job 5-7

Lesson Introduction: *Our passage this week sets up the final days of Jesus' earthly ministry, as we see Jesus making His triumphal entry into Jerusalem. As Jesus prepares to face His death, we will see His humility on display as He rides into town on a colt, and His authority on display as He cleanses the temple. King Jesus poses all the gentleness of a lamb, and all the ferocity of a roaring lion. As we study this week, may we be ever more in awe of our matchless King!*

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS OF THE PASSAGE:

- **Jesus reigns in humility (V. 1-11)**
- **Jesus reigns with authority (V. 15-19)**
- **Jesus came for the nations (V. 15-19)**
- **The Christian life is fruit bearing life (V.12-14,20-25)**

Mark 11:1-25 English Standard Version

1 Now when they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples 2 and said to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. 3 If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.'" 4 And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. 5 And some of those standing there said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" 6 And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. 7 And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. 8 And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. 9 And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! 10 Blessed is the

coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!"

11 And he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple. And when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

12 On the following day, when they came from Bethany, he was hungry. 13 And seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to see if he could find anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. 14 And he said to it, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard it.

15 And they came to Jerusalem. And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold and those who bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. 16 And he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple. 17 And he was teaching them and saying to them, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations'? But you have made it a den of robbers." 18 And the chief priests and the scribes heard it and were seeking a way to destroy him, for they feared him, because all the crowd was astonished at his teaching. 19 And when evening came they went out of the city.

20 As they passed by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered away to its roots. 21 And Peter remembered and said to him, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree that you cursed has withered." 22 And Jesus answered them, "Have faith in God. 23 Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him. 24 Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. 25 And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses."

Discussion Section 1: The Triumphal Entry (V. 1-11)

-Why is it significant that Jesus rode in on a colt?

-What does the way Jesus enter the city tell us about Him as King?

-What were the people expecting of Jesus as King?

Note: As we see Jesus make His entry into Jerusalem, it is remarkable how excited the people are to welcome Him. The Jews, no doubt, believed that they were finally about to be liberated from Roman rule, for their king was arriving, and would come to liberate them. A war horse would have been quite appropriate in their eyes, yet Jesus gives the shocking instructions to His disciples to go and find a colt (or a small donkey) for Him to make His grand entry on. What a shock this must have been to many Jews, but even in His choice of vehicle into the city, Jesus was teaching them. What He was teaching, was that He was not there to overthrow any government but was there to humbly offer up His life for the salvation of God's people. Jesus' riding in on this peace-signifying animal also pointed to the messianic prophecy found in Zechariah 9:9. This exciting time in the city would soon turn sour, however, because Jesus was about to show this exuberant crowd just how different He really was from their expectation.

Discussion Section 2: The Cleansing of the Temple (V. 15-19)

-How do Jesus' actions in these verses contrast with His triumphal entry into the city?

-Why was Jesus so passionate about the state in which He found the temple?

-What would have surprised the Jews about their king being jealous for the nations?

Note: This section of Scripture is quite shocking for many. It is amazing to see Jesus, right after coming into town humbly, suddenly begin to overturn tables, and drive people out of the temple authoritatively. We see the incredible humility of Jesus in one section, and then quickly see His ferocity in action the next. Why was Jesus so passionate, though? What was it that bothered Him so much about what was going on in the court of the Gentiles?

The court of the Gentiles was the only place in the temple where non-Jews were allowed. This was a place where the Gentiles were supposed to be able to seek God in "quiet reflection" (Keller), but instead, the Jews had made it a place to sell animals so that they could make empty sacrifices during Passover. Here, Jesus is shockingly showing the Jewish leaders that He did not come to liberate them from Gentiles, and that He did not come to purge the temple of all foreigners, but instead,

He came to set free the nations from their sins! This passage shows us, up close and personal, God's passion for the nations!

Discussion Section 3: The Lesson of the Fig Tree (V. 12-14, 20-25)

-Why did Jesus curse the fig tree?

-How does the fig tree help us consider our spiritual condition?

-How did Israel compare to the fig tree?

Excerpt from Jesus the King by Timothy Keller:

"Middle Eastern fig trees bore two kinds of fruit. As the leaves were starting to come in the spring, before the figs came, the branches bore little nodules, which were abundant and very good to eat. Travelers liked to pick them off and eat them as they made their journey. If you found a fig tree that had begun to sprout leaves but had none of these delicious nodules, you would know that something was wrong. It might look okay from a distance because the leaves had emerged, but if it had no nodules it was diseased or maybe even dying inside. Growth without fruit was a sign of decay. Jesus is simply pronouncing that such is the case here. Remember that this happens between his first arrival at the temple and his return to the temple the next day. Jesus seizes the opportunity to provide a private, memorable object lesson, a parable against hollow religiosity, with the fig tree as a visual aid.

So, what is the lesson about? Jesus finds the fig tree not doing its appointed job. The tree became a perfect metaphor for Israel, and beyond that, for those claiming to be God's people but who do not bear fruit for him. Jesus was returning to a place that was religiously very busy, just like most churches are: tasks, committees, noise, people coming and going, lots of transactions. But the busyness contained no spirituality. Nobody was actually praying. There are many things we do that can appear to be signs of real belief but can grow without real heart change. Evidently we can be very busy in church activities without real heart change and without real compassionate involvement with others."