

Mark

Lesson 15 Chapter 11:1-19

Leader Guide

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The Triumphal Entry

Lesson 15, Mark 11, Matthew 21:1-9, Luke 19:38-44, John 12:12-19

Read Mark 11:1-11, Parallel verses in Matthew 21:1-9, Luke 19:38-44, John 12:12-19

Mk 11:1 As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, ^{Mk 11:2} 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. ^{Mk 11:3} If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ tell him, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.’”**

Mk 11:4 They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, ^{Mk 11:5} some people standing there asked, “What are you doing, untying that colt?”

Mk 11:6 They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go.

Mk 11:7 When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it.

[Mt 21:4 This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

Mt 21:5 “Say to the Daughter of Zion, ‘See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’” (Zechariah 9:9)]

[Jn 12:16 At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that they had done these things to him.]

[Lk 19:37 When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives,]

Mk 11:8 Many people [^{Mt 21:8} a very large crowd] spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread [palm] branches they had cut in the fields.

Mk 11:9 Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, “Hosanna [^{Mt 21:9} to the Son of David!”]”
“Blessed is he [the king] who comes in the name of the Lord!”

Mk 11:10 “Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!” “Hosanna in the highest!”

[Lk 19:39 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples!”

Lk 19:40 **“I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”**

Lk 19:41 As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it ^{Lk 19:42} and said, **“If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes. ^{Lk 19:43} The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. ^{Lk 19:44} They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God’s coming to you.”**

Mk 11:11a Jesus entered Jerusalem and went to the temple.

[Mt 21:10 When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, “Who is this?”

Mt 21:11 The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."]

[Jn 12:17 Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word. Jn 12:18 Many people, because they had heard that he had given this miraculous sign, went out to meet him.

Jn 12:19 So the Pharisees said to one another, "See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!"]

Mk 11:11b He (Jesus) looked around at everything, but since it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the Twelve.

Discuss

1. How was Jesus's identity as Messiah demonstrated as he entered Jerusalem?

Mk 11:1-3 Jesus had foreknowledge of events such as the procurement of the donkey and foal and the destruction of Jerusalem.

Mt 21:4-5 Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey in fulfillment of Messianic prophecy in Zechariah 9:9 "See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey." Usually, a colt was not broken and not rideable. However, even animals know their Creator.

Mt 21:9 Jesus was heralded as the Son of David, rather than Jesus of Nazareth, indicating they acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah in the line of David as a fulfillment of 2 Samuel 7:12-16 (I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom).

Lk 19:39-44 Jesus demonstrated supernatural knowledge of the destruction of Jerusalem (in 70AD).

2. The greeting of "Hosanna" is a request of God to "Save us." Hosanna is found only in Psalm 118:25 and is a processional praising God. In Jesus' day, the Psalm was part of the liturgical celebration of the Passover and Feast of Tabernacles. Read Psalm 118:24-28 to understand better how the processional shouts of "Hosanna" fulfill the Messianic prophecy.

Psalm 118:24 This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. 25 Save us, we pray, O LORD! O LORD, we pray, give us success! 26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD! We bless you from the house of the LORD. 27 The LORD is God, and he has made his light to shine upon us. Bind the festal sacrifice with cords, up to the horns of the altar!

118:28 You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you.

The shouts of hosanna by the crowd were praise to God and a call for Him to save them. They were announcing that Jesus came in the name of the Lord, as the Son of David, King of Israel. At this time, they probably did not fully understand that Jesus was, in fact, God in the flesh who had come to save them but in a most unexpected way – through his sacrificial death as God's sacrificial lamb for the sin of the world.

3. Why might others have missed that Jesus was the Messiah?

Jesus came in a humble state - riding a donkey,

The expectation was the Messiah was a mighty warrior, riding a stallion, army following, ready to overthrow all enemies, and start a world government centered in Jerusalem. World peace would follow his reign in Jerusalem.

We are going to see the view of Jesus as a warrior again in John 12:33. Jesus told them to trust in him so that they might be sons of light.

The prophet Isaiah foretold the humility and rejection of the Messiah 700 years before Jesus; “He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not” (Isaiah 53:3).

4. Have you unexpectedly encountered God's presence in humble circumstances?

I am struck every time I encounter someone who gives God's word of encouragement, wisdom, or blessing with grace and ease. When my mother was near death in the hospital, a woman named Smiley asked me what the problem was as I was going through the cafeteria line. I told Smiley that my mother was very ill and not responding to medication. Smiley took time from her serving meals and said that we were going to pray for her by name right then, and we did. Later I saw Smiley working nights on the cleaning crew, and she asked again how my mother was doing. Smiley continued to pray for my mother and sent her notes with her food tray to encourage her. The last time I saw Smiley was during her cleaning rounds. My mother did get better. Smiley stopped by to give her a blessing before her discharge. Life could not have been easy for Smiley, working two shifts in the hospital to make ends meet, but she was a child of God, blessing others as she went through her day.

Read Mark 11:12-19, Parallel Passages in Matthew 21:12-17, Luke 19:45-47

^{Mk 11:12} The next day as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry.

^{Mk 11:13} 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. ^{Mk 11:14} Then he said to the tree, **“May no one ever eat fruit from you again.”** And his disciples heard him say it.

^{Mk 11:15} On reaching Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple area 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, ^{Mk 11:16} and would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts.

Mk 11:17 And as he taught them, he said, “Is it not written: ‘My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations’ (Isaiah 56:7)? But you have made it ‘a den of robbers (Jeremiah 7:11).’”

[Mt 21:14 The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them.

Mt 21:15 But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple area, “Hosanna to the Son of David,” they were indignant.

Mt 21:16 “Do you hear what these children are saying?” they asked him. “Yes,” replied Jesus, “‘have you never read, ‘“From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise’ (Psalm 8:2)?”]

Mk 11:18 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.

Mk 11:19 When evening came, they went out of the city [Mt 21:17 to Bethany and lodged there.]

5. Jesus ended his public ministry the way it began – by clearing the temple of money changers and animal sellers. Jesus called the temple a “den of robbers”, quoting Jeremiah 7:11. Read the passage and consider the historical events at Shiloh and Ephraim relate to Jeremiah's prophecy.

Jeremiah 7:11 Has this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, I myself have seen it, declares the LORD. 12 Go now to my place that was in Shiloh, where I made my name dwell at first, and see what I did to it because of the evil of my people Israel. 13 And now, because you have done all these things, declares the LORD, and when I spoke to you persistently you did not listen, and when I called you, you did not answer, 14 therefore I will do to the house that is called by my name, and in which you trust, and to the place that I gave to you and to your fathers, as I did to Shiloh. 15 And I will cast you out of my sight, as I cast out all your kinsmen, all the offspring of Ephraim.

- a. What was significant about Shiloh and Ephraim?

Shiloh was in Ephraim in the northern Kingdom of Israel. It was also the site of the Tent of the Meeting and the Ark of Covenant after the Israelites took possession of Canaan. The Ark remained in Shiloh until the time of Samuel when the sons of Eli foolishly took the Ark to battle against the Philistines without seeking the LORD's will. The Ark was captured by the philistines which brought the LODRD's wrath against them, so they returned the Ark to Kiriath Jearim until David brought it up to Jerusalem. Shiloh is used as cursed symbol of of idolatry in Psalm 78:60 and Jeremiah 7:12-14. Jeremiah was a prophet to Judah who faced conquest by the Assyrians and then by the Babylonians. Through Jeremiah, the LORD was telling Judah that their time was up; God would destroy Jerusalem through their enemies. Now, Jesus was telling Judah that their time was up too.

- b. What was Jesus telling the priests who came to rebuke him for overturning the tables in the gentiles' temple court and healing the blind and lame?

Jesus was telling the priests that their time was also up; the time for wrath and judgment was near. The temple and sacrificial system would come to an end in 70 AD when the Romans destroyed the temple. God had already ended the need for a sacrificial system through Jesus' death, one perfect sacrifice for all sin, for all men, for all time. Now, salvation and forgiveness of sin would come to all men through faith in Jesus Christ not through the priestly sacrifice of animals.

6. Matthew includes the accounts of the healing of the blind and lame at the temple and hosannas from children to fulfill additional Messianic prophecies. These refer to Isaiah 35:4-6 and Psalm 8:1-2.

Isaiah 35:4 Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you."

35:5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; 6 then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

Psalm 8:1 O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. 2 Out of the mouth of babies and infants, you have established strength because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger. (Note the NIV translation for verse 2 is "*From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise*").

- a. The chief priests and teachers of the law know the context of quoted scriptures. How did they respond?

They could not deny that Jesus healed the blind and lame but attributed his power to Satan. They also understood that the people accepted Jesus as the Messiah and proclaimed his praise as the King of Israel. Even though the priests understood the claims, testimonies, miracles, and signs throughout Jesus' ministry, they rejected Jesus as the Son of God and plotted to murder him.

Closing and Blessing from John Baillie

You to whom I owe the gift of this day's life, give also, I ask You, the spirit to use it as I should. Forbid that I should stain the brightness of the morning with any evil thought or darken the afternoon with any shameful deed. Let Your Holy Spirit breathe into my heart today all pure and heavenly desires. Let Your truth inform my mind. Let Your justice and righteousness make a throne within me and rule my misbehaving will. Let Christ be formed in me, and let me learn of Him all humility of heart, all gentleness of behavior, all modesty of speech, all helpfulness of action, and promptness in the doing of my Father's will.

You who surround the whole earth with Your most merciful favors and desires that none of Your children should perish, I would call down Your blessing today upon all who are striving towards the making of a better world. I pray, God, especially:

- for all who are valiant for truth

- for all who are working for purer and juster laws
- for all who are working for peace between the nations
- for all who are engaged in healing disease
- for all who are engaged in the relief of poverty
- for all who are engaged in the rescue of the fallen
- for all who are working towards the restoration of the broken unity of Your Holy Church
- for all who preach the gospel
- for all who bear witness to Christ in foreign lands
- for all who suffer for the sake of righteousness.

Cast down, Lord, all the forces of cruelty and wrong. Defeat all selfish and worldly-minded schemes, and prosper all that is conceived among us in the spirit of Christ and carried out to the honor of His blessed name. Amen.