

COMMENTARY

GOSPEL OF MARK
Chapter 11

vs. 1-11:

Jesus was within a mile or two of the city of Jerusalem (by the Mount of Olives; east of Jerusalem) when He sent two of His disciples ahead into the village to get a colt that had never been ridden on. If questioned, they were to say that the Lord had need of it and that it would be shortly returned. They promptly did so and returned with the colt.

Garments were placed over the colt and Jesus sat upon it and began to ride towards Jerusalem. Cloaks and branches were spread along the path to make the road a little bit smoother for Jesus. People were praising God for they were convinced that Jesus was coming to restore Israel to greatness.

Jesus left that evening to go out to Bethany with His 12 disciples.

vs. 12-19:

As they headed back for Jerusalem the next day, Jesus came across a fig tree that was producing no fruit. Jesus cursed the tree.

Jesus went to the temple area and drove out those who were conducting business and taking advantage of the people. He overturned tables and benches and would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple court. He then rebuked the people for turning God's house into a marketplace instead of maintaining it as a house of prayer. The religious leaders heard what He had said and went out to try and determine how to get rid of Him because the people were following Jesus and He was upsetting the religious leaders business.

vs. 20-26:

The next morning the disciples saw again the fig tree that Jesus had cursed. Peter was amazed that it had withered so quickly from the roots up. Jesus taught them to have faith in God. By so doing, great power is available through prayer if one will simply believe that God will answer. Jesus also taught them to forgive others, so that they, themselves might be forgiven by God of their (the disciples) sins.

vs. 27-33:

Looking for a way to trap Jesus, the religious leaders asked Him where His authority came from (if He said from God, they would accuse Him of blasphemy; if He said from anything else, the people would no longer follow Jesus). He told them to also answer a question, before He would reply. His question was, "John's baptism-- was it from Heaven or from men?" Now the religious leaders were on the spot (if they answered from God, they would judge themselves for they had rejected it; if they answered from men, the people would turn on them for they regarded John as a prophet of God). They finally said that they did not know (this way they did not have to commit themselves). Jesus replied that neither would He tell them the source of His authority (the time had not yet come for Him to be taken).

STUDY GUIDE

Mark 11:

1. Where were they when Jesus sent two disciples on a mission?
2. What did the two disciples do?
3. What did the people do? (See vs. 8)
4. What did the people shout?
5. Why did Jesus curse the fig tree?
6. What did Jesus do in the temple?
7. What did Jesus say that they had made the temple?
8. How did the chief priests and teachers respond to this?
9. What had happened to the fig tree by the next day?
10. What must one do when they pray? (See vs. 24, 25)
11. What question was Jesus asked?
12. What question did Jesus ask of them?

BONUS:

1. Describe what you imagine the triumphal entrance was like.
2. What did Jesus hope to accomplish by cursing the fig tree?
3. Is it right to sell bibles and Christian materials in the church? Defend your position.