



February 6, 2013

Mark 11:1-33 (NASB)

The Triumphal Entry (11:1-10)

¹¹ As they approached Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, He sent two of His disciples, ² and said to them, “Go into the village opposite you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, on which no one yet has ever sat; untie it and bring it here. ³ If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ you say, ‘The Lord has need of it’; and immediately he will send it back here.” ⁴ They went away and found a colt tied at the door, outside in the street; and they untied it. ⁵ Some of the bystanders were saying to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” ⁶ They spoke to them just as Jesus had told them, and they gave them permission. ⁷ They brought the colt to Jesus and put their coats on it; and He sat on it. ⁸ And many spread their coats in the road, and others spread leafy branches which they had cut from the fields. ⁹ Those who went in front 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!”

A Cursed Fig Tree (11:11-14)

¹¹ Jesus entered Jerusalem and came into the temple; and after looking around at everything, He left for Bethany with the twelve, since it was already late. ¹² On the next day, when they had left Bethany, He became hungry. ¹³ Seeing at a distance a fig tree in leaf, He went to see if perhaps He would find anything on it; and when He came to it, He found

nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. ¹⁴ He said to it, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again!" And His disciples were listening.

The Temple Cleansed (11:15-18)

¹⁵ Then they came to Jerusalem. And He entered the temple and began to drive out those who were buying and selling in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who were selling doves; ¹⁶ and He would not permit anyone to carry merchandise through the temple. ¹⁷ And He began to teach and say 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 ROBBERS' DEN." ¹⁸ The chief priests and the scribes heard this, and began seeking how to destroy Him; for they were afraid of Him, for the whole crowd was astonished at His teaching.

Figs, Faith and Forgiveness (9:19-26)

¹⁹ When evening came, they would go out of the city. ²⁰ As they were passing by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots up. ²¹ Being reminded, Peter said to Him, "Rabbi, look, the fig tree which You cursed has withered." ²² And Jesus answered saying to them, "Have faith in God. ²³ Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it will be granted him. ²⁴ Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you. ²⁵ Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you your transgressions. ²⁶ [But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father who is in heaven forgive your transgressions.]"

Authority Questioned (9:27-33)

²⁷ They came again to Jerusalem. And as He was walking in the temple, the chief priests and the scribes and the elders came to Him, ²⁸ and began saying to Him, “By what authority are You doing these things, or who gave You this authority to do these things?” ²⁹ And Jesus said to them, “I will ask you one question, and you answer Me, and then I will tell you by what authority I do these things. ³⁰ Was the baptism of John from heaven, or from men? Answer Me.” ³¹ They began reasoning among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ He will say, ‘Then why did you not believe him?’ ³² But shall we say, ‘From men?’” — they were afraid of the people, for everyone considered John to have been a real prophet. ³³ Answering Jesus, they said, “We do not know.” And Jesus said to them, “Nor will I tell you by what authority I do these things.”

Reflection Questions

Mark 11:1-33

1. Jesus told the two disciples to go and retrieve a colt from a nearby village, and predicted a conversation that would happen. We might assume this perplexed these disciples a little bit. Reflect on a time in your life when you've sensed the Lord calling you to do something, but there was an element of mystery to it. How did you respond?
2. The crowd shouted "Hosanna!" This can mean *save, help* or *rescue*. In what ways have you cried out with *Hosanna* to God? How have you experienced the answer to that request?
3. The fig tree experience serves as a powerful metaphor regarding God's blessing. Can you think of some incidents where God's blessing seemed to be withdrawn?
4. Jesus might be considered a *purist* as He expelled commerce from the Temple. Who are some of the *purists* you've experienced in your life? How does their passion affect or influence you?
5. Jesus once again uses hyperbole to make His point about the importance of *faith*. Which word(s) best describes your own faith? *Devout... Solid... Unshakable... Inconsistent... Situational... Weak... Non-existent...* Why did you choose the word(s) you did?
6. The authority of Jesus is in question. How do you view the authority of Jesus? Of the Bible? What role does this authority have in your life?
7. Identify one "take away" from this passage and reflect how you can apply it to your life. What's the first step you'll take to do this?