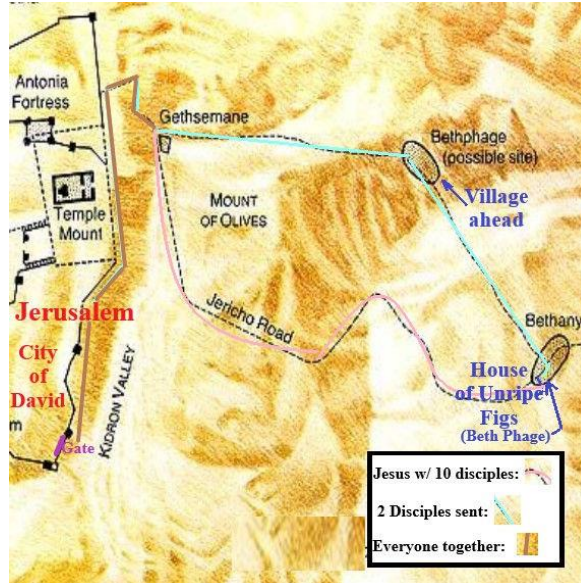


Day 1

Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

The Triumphal Entry



© R. T. Tippett @ <https://www.katrinapearls.com/post/mark-11-1-11-understanding-bethphage-a-donkey-colt-and-palm-branches>

Bethphage: The "House of Unripe Figs" [pronounced "Bēth Paggē"] [<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bethphage>]

Distance: Bethany to the Garden of Gethsemane is approximately 1½-miles 'as the crow flies'.

The precise location of Bethphage is unknown; the general location is noted on the map. It may have been the name of a fig orchard.

<sup>1</sup> As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>If anyone asks you, 'Why are you doing this?' tell him, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.' "

Q1. The disciples knew this commandment: "Thou shalt not steal!" [Exodus 20:15] While they obeyed their Master, do you think they were worried?

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<sup>4</sup>They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, <sup>5</sup>some people standing there asked, "What are you doing, untying that colt?" <sup>6</sup>They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go.


Q2. Do you think they were amazed to see a donkey tied as the Lord had said... or were they worried that they found one?

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Q3. What was the penalty for stealing an animal? (Lev 6:1-7)

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<sup>7</sup>When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. <sup>8</sup>Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. <sup>9</sup>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!"

 "Hosanna": a Hebrew expression meaning "Save!" became an exclamation of praise.

Q4. Were the people expecting a political or a spiritual Messiah?

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Q5. Undoubtedly, the 'common' people had heard of the free fish and bread distributed at Jesus' outdoor services. Were the people, perhaps, expecting the Messiah to feed them, to heal them, from this point forward?


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**Psalm 118:26** Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD.

Q6. To what "the coming kingdom of our father David" does this refer? (Vs. 10)

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 Nathan the prophet received this revelation from the Lord about King David, "Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever." (2 Samuel 7:16 about 930 B.C.)

 David writes in Psalm 2:6-7, 12: "I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill." <sup>7</sup> I will proclaim the decree of the Lord: He said to me, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father."... [See Acts 13:33] <sup>12</sup> Kiss the Son, lest he be angry and you be destroyed in your way... Blessed are all who take refuge in him.


**Acts 13:32-34** [The Apostle Paul was invited to speak to the assembly in the Jewish synagogue at Pisidian Antioch and Paul included the following teaching:] "We tell you the good news: What God promised our fathers <sup>33</sup> he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising up Jesus. As it is written in the second Psalm: 'You are my Son; today I have become your Father.'<sup>34</sup> The fact that God raised him from the dead, never to decay, is stated in these words: 'I will give you the holy and sure blessings promised to David.'"

Q7. Was Jesus fulfilling prophecy?

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**Zechariah 9:9** Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your King comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Day 2

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

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


Q8. What do you think Jesus saw in the temple?

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Q9. Why was the temple built? And Who was to be worshipped in the temple?

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Day 3

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

*Jesus Clears the Temple*

<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.


Q10. It was “not the season for figs”. So, why was Jesus looking for figs?

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<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.

Q11. Why did Jesus judge the “fig tree” so harshly?

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 A commentator stated, “Christ looked to find some fruit, for the time of gathering figs, though it was near, was not yet come; but he found none. He made this fig-tree an example, not to the trees, but to the men of that generation. It was a figure of the doom upon the Jewish church, to which he came seeking fruit, but found none. Christ went to the temple, and began to reform the abuses in its courts, to show that when the Redeemer came to Zion, it was to turn away ungodliness from Jacob. The scribes and the chief priests sought, not how they might make their peace with him, but how they might destroy him. A desperate attempt, which they could not but fear was fighting against God.” [© Concise Commentary on the Whole Bible by Matthew Henry; <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/mark/11-14.htm>]

Day 4

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

*Jesus in the Temple*

<sup>15</sup> 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, <sup>16</sup> and would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts.

**John 2:14-17** [Theologians attribute the “temple cleansing” in John, chapter two, as the first cleansing and those mentioned in Matthew, Mark, & Luke as the second.] <sup>14</sup> In the temple courts he found men selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. <sup>15</sup> So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple area, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the moneychangers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup> To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a market!" <sup>17</sup> His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me." [Psalm 69:9]

Q12. Why was Jesus angry?

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Q13. By whose authority did Jesus clear the temple? (See Gen 1:26; John 1:1,2; John 10:30; John 14:9b; and John 14:11)

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<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'? [Isaiah 56:7]  
But you have made it ‘a den of robbers.’ " [Jeremiah 7:11]

<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.

Q14. Why were the Jewish religious leaders angry? (Weren’t they looking for the Messiah?) Of what were they afraid?

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Q15. What would you say was the “job description” of the Pharisees?

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**John 12:39-43** For this reason they could not believe, because, as Isaiah says elsewhere: <sup>40</sup> "He has blinded their eyes and deadened their hearts, so they can neither see with their eyes, nor understand with their hearts, nor turn -- and I would heal them." <sup>41</sup> Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus' glory and spoke about him. <sup>42</sup> Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they would not confess their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; <sup>43</sup> for they loved praise from men more than praise from God.

Q16. Did God pass judgment upon the Pharisees? How do you know? (See John 12:39-43, emphasis on v. 43.)


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Q17. Is there a lesson here for us?

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<sup>19</sup> When evening came, they went out of the city.

**Day 5**

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

***The Withered Fig Tree***

<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!"

Q18. If the Pharisees were represented as a leafy green fig tree, did they produce fruit? How do you define “fruit” in this context?

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**John 15:1-5** [Jesus taught,] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup> He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. <sup>3</sup> You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

<sup>22</sup> "Have faith in God," Jesus answered. <sup>23</sup> "I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. <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 him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins." [Some manuscripts add verse 26] <sup>26</sup> But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father who is in Heaven forgive your trespasses.

Q19. Should we interpret verse-24 to mean that God will do anything that we ask?

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Q20. If God does not answer a prayer, does that mean that our belief is not strong enough? (Vs. 24)

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Q21. What is the first thing that we must have? (Vs. 22)

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Q22. If we hold a grudge against another, what is the condition of our heart? And what must we do? (Vs. 25)

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Q23. Does a grudge become a barrier between Jesus and us? (Vs. 25)

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Q24. Does God reward selfish motives?

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Q25. When someone becomes a Believer in Christ Jesus, they become indwelt by the Holy Spirit. Does the Holy Spirit help Believers to pray? To formulate prayers?

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**Romans 8:26-27** In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints [Believers] in accordance with God's will.

Q26. If I, a Believer, prayed, "Lord, please help me buy a new Corvette, because I want to impress my neighbors. Amen", do you think the Lord would be honored by such a request? Would such a prayer help build-up the Kingdom? Would fulfillment of my prayer bring glory and praise and honor to the Lord?

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**Mark 14:36** [Jesus prayed to the Father] "everything is possible for You... Yet, not what I will, but what You will."

Q27. Is verse-23 to be taken literally or is it an example of God's all-powerful nature?

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Day 6

Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today's study.

The Authority of Jesus Questioned

Luke 20:45-47 While all the people were listening, Jesus said to his disciples, "Beware of the teachers of the law. They like to walk around in flowing robes and love to be greeted in the marketplaces and have the most important seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. They devour widows' houses and for a show make lengthy prayers. Such men will be punished most severely." [Also Mark 12:38-40]

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. "By what authority are you doing these things?" they asked. "And who gave you authority to do this?"

Q28. What activities of Jesus might the Jewish religious authorities be questioning?

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Q29. If Jesus came right out and answered "By God's authority!", what would the Jewish authorities have done?

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Q30. On the other hand, if Jesus had answered "By My authority!", what would that answer have conveyed?

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Q31. Jesus seemed to always praise God and emphasize His obedience to His Father; do you think that Jesus would have ever answered "By My authority!"

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Luke 3:2b-3 ... the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the desert. He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. [Luke, chapter three, describes the ministry of John the Baptist.]

Jesus replied, "I will ask you one question. Answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. John's baptism -- was it from heaven, or from men? Tell me!"

They discussed it among themselves and said, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will ask, 'Then why didn't you believe him?'"

But if we say, 'From men'...." (They feared the people, for everyone held that John really was a prophet.)

So they answered Jesus, "We don't know."

Jesus said, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things."

Q32. Why didn't Jesus take this opportunity to teach them Who He really was?

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