

**23S10 Mark 11:1-14 (Part 25) Palm Sunday**

Hello everyone. Thank you for joining me today @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. I hope everyone is doing well. Today we are continuing our study of the gospel according to Mark with Mark 11:1-14 (Part 25) Palm Sunday; Fig Tree

Before we start, we need to understand a little about this amazing book in the bible. Most historians believe Mark was the first written account of Jesus' life, ministry, death and resurrection. The identity of Mark is not known for sure, but most believe this is John Mark. John Mark is spoken of by Luke in Acts as the cousin of Barnabas, John Mark is mentioned in many other books on the New Testament. Many believe he spent time traveling with Peter, so it is thought that much of Mark's gospel is actually from the perspective of Peter. We also believe that John Mark knew Jesus. There are accounts that Jesus stayed at Mark's mother's home, there are also some unique story details in Mark that are not in either Matthew's or Luke's accounts. We will try to highlight some of these as we go through the stories in Mark.

I'm reading from the New American Standard version (NAS) today.

Let's read Mark 11:1-14 (NAS) *<sup>1</sup>And as they approached Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, He sent two of His disciples, <sup>2</sup>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 has ever sat; untie it and bring it here. <sup>3</sup>And if anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord has need of it'; and immediately he will send it back here." <sup>4</sup>They went away and found a colt tied at the door, outside in the street; and they untied it. <sup>5</sup>And some of the bystanders were saying to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" <sup>6</sup>And they told them just as Jesus had said, and they gave them permission. <sup>7</sup>They brought the colt to Jesus and put their cloaks on it; and He sat on it. <sup>8</sup>And many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches which they had cut from the fields. <sup>9</sup>And those who went in front and those who followed were shouting: 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!" <sup>11</sup>And Jesus entered Jerusalem and came into the temple area; and after looking around at everything, He left for Bethany with the twelve, since it was already late. <sup>12</sup>On the next day, when they had left Bethany, He became hungry. <sup>13</sup>Seeing from 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. <sup>14</sup>And He said to it, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again!" And His disciples were listening.*

Let's pray. **Dear heavenly father, guide our discussion today such that your message is clear to each of us. As we read your words from Mark, help us see what Mark wants his readers to understand and why. I pray that you help me stay out of the way so your hope and peace can be shared with us. I pray this in your name Lord Jesus. Amen.**

Now, let's take a closer look at these verses, Mark 11:1-3 (NAS) *<sup>1</sup>And as they approached Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, He sent two of His disciples, <sup>2</sup>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 has ever sat; untie it and bring it here. <sup>3</sup>And if anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord has need of it'; and immediately he will send it back here."*

I only say this jokingly, but Jesus tells his disciples to go take a colt they find for him. I wonder if the disciples are wondering if this is stealing. It does seem strange but then.

Mark 11:4-6 (NAS) *<sup>4</sup>They went away and found a colt tied at the door, outside in the street; and they untied it. <sup>5</sup>And some of the bystanders were saying to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" <sup>6</sup>And they told them just as Jesus had said, and they gave them permission.*

See no stealing. They got permission to take it, just the way Jesus told them it would happen.

Mark 11:7-8 (NAS) *<sup>7</sup>They brought the colt to Jesus and put their cloaks on it; and He sat on it. <sup>8</sup>And many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches which they had cut from the fields.*

So I can only imagine what the disciples were thinking, "this is it". Jesus is going to establish his kingdom. I wonder if anyone was thinking about Ezekiel and the other prophets when Jesus was coming into the city from the East.

Next Mark 11:9-10 (NAS) *<sup>9</sup>And those who went in front and those who followed were shouting: 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!"*

This is a big commotion. I'm sure the Jewish leaders saw this and the other gospels include some of the conversations between Jesus and the Jewish leaders. And I am certain the Romans took notice of this.

Next Mark 11:11 (NAS) *<sup>11</sup>And Jesus entered Jerusalem and came into the temple area; and after looking around at everything, He left for Bethany with the twelve, since it was already late.*

I wonder what was going through the minds of the disciples, then Jesus leaves and goes back to Bethany.

Next Mark 11:12-14 (NAS) *<sup>12</sup>On the next day, when they had left Bethany, He became hungry. <sup>13</sup>Seeing from 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. <sup>14</sup>And He said to it, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again!" And His disciples were listening.*

This is one of those odd stories in the Bible. I don't believe this was by accident. We will find out later in the story, Jesus is going to use this fig tree as an illustration. So keep that in mind for next time.

Let's review.

- 1) Palm Sunday? Churches all over the world celebrate this event. Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem one week before his resurrection. This is the figurative selection by the people. Jesus as our ultimate Passover Lamb.
- 2) Anticipation. Can you imagine the anticipation of the disciples? The crowds are screaming, laying their clothes on the road. This is the entry for a king. Then nothing happens.
- 3) Hosanna? This is Hebrew cry for help or happiness. The word in Hebrew literally means to save or we pray. Or you might say the people were screaming a prayer out loud to God to save them. They expected that Jesus was the Messiah who would save them.

**Let's Pray. Heavenly Father thank you for Bible. Help us to read and meditate on your words so we can hear the message you have for us. Help us to remember who you are Lord. You are our king, king of kings. You are our Lord, Lord over everyone. We can trust you, Lord. Help us to ask you for wisdom when we don't understand. I pray this in your Name Lord Jesus. Amen**

Let me leave you with this today. This is an event or events. The people are anticipating something amazing is about to happen. The King is entering the city, but then nothing happens. Or at least nothing right way. Jesus looks around then returns to where he had come from.

What does this mean for you? How often have to anticipated God was going to do something. You felt it, you saw it happening. But then, it did not happen or at least not how you imagined it would. Stand tuned. God's plan is always better than we could ever imagine and yes, we have to wait sometimes for God's timing to reveal it to you. Wait on God, do what God is telling you to do, then trust Jesus.

Thank you for joining me for our study of the gospel of Mark. Please email me comments or feedback. And if you liked the message, please share the link with your friends. Until next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.