

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

SEPTEMBER 14TH, 2025 // GOSPEL OF MARK

ENTER (MARK 11:1-11) JERUSALEM

This part of the Gospel starts what tradition calls Holy Week. **It is the week leading up to Jesus' resurrection**, and this day is called Palm Sunday because of the branches that were laid out as Jesus entered the city.

- **We should be welcoming Jesus every day of our lives.**

COLT

This scene was purposefully shown to the disciples, told to John Mark, and read by us to set the stage for the upcoming events. It will seem chaotic and frustrating, but **Jesus wanted to show He is in control of it.**

- If we look closely, **we all can see moments of God's hand in our lives.**

SPREAD

All the way back in Mark 1:15, Jesus talks about how the Kingdom of God is here, and with this entrance, we are seeing the King of Kings **publicly arrive in Jerusalem. But He does not go towards the throne; instead He goes towards the temple.**

- Jesus came to **heal our relationship.**

KING JESUS

He arrives on a donkey instead of a horse, and instead of going after the throne, He has His eyes set on the temple. **Jesus will not be controlled by anyone because He loves the Father.**

- If we do things to please people, **we do not care about them being happy**; it is about us being happy.

HOUSE (MARK 11:12-19) HUNGRY

Small phrases like these are important because they highlight a vital attribute of Jesus. **God the Son is fully human. There is no amount of humanity absent in Him.**

- God took on flesh for us. **He left the throne room of God and experienced life so He can intercede for us.**

FIG TREE

People are usually confused by this, especially since it was not the season for figs. One explanation is that **this was an act of prophecy. He went to the temple, did not see any fruit**, and is prophesying that **the temple will be destroyed.**

- **Do we know our life is a gift?**

THROW

The practice of money changers and selling doves was not new or wrong. But the new High Priest, Caiaphas, brought it into the temple. It used to be done at the Mount of Olives, but **greed and discrimination crept into the leadership of the temple.**

- **God desires to save everyone.**

TEMPLE COURTS

This would be the area where Gentiles could enter because the temple was divided into sections. **Caiaphas was making a profit off of these outsiders who wanted to worship God. He was also profiting off of people who traveled far to get to the temple.**

- **How are we treating people?**

LOOKING TO KILL

If this was anyone else, they would be right in their anger. The chief priests and scribes started what God prophesied in Mark 8—**they were going to kill God the Son for being God.**

- People like Jesus when He is a friend, teacher, or prophet, **but when He is God, people hate Him.**

FAITH (MARK 11:20-25) TEMPLE

This would be a sign that the temple would be destroyed. For ancient Jews, this would be devastating. **But God had a plan.** His dwelling place would not be **restricted to walls; it would be His people, also known as the Church.**

- **Every Christian is meant to have faith and forgiveness.**

WITHERED

This fig tree would be another reminder for the readers and disciples that what Jesus says will come true. **He is in complete control of this situation, and His very words have power.**

- When we pray to God, do we know who we are talking to? He is **not just our best friend but the Creator God.**

ASK

Jesus is reminding these disciples that if they have faith they will get what they asked for. Just like every kid thinks their dad can do anything, a Christian believes God can do anything—**because He is our dad, but He is not our grandpa.**

- We do not pray to get things. **We pray to God to change us.**

FORGIVENESS

This has been and always will be a fundamental part of following Christ. Jesus wants the disciples to know that revenge has no place in the life of a Christian.

- God seeks to heal not only our relationship with Him; **He also wants to heal our relationships with others.**

CONTROL

- **We all have limits to what we are in control of or go through.**
- God also **does not waste anything** that we have ever gone through.
- What **the Lord plans for our life** does not compare to what we dream for it.
- **His plans are never meant to hinder us but to give us life.**

PEACE

- When we have **peace that comes with forgiveness, forgiving others is easier.**
- We **stop chasing perfection and start chasing Jesus through repentance.**
- God's peace **lets us enter into the culture instead of having it control us.**
- **We have peace with being a Church and not a club.**