

THE GOSPEL OF MARK

Mark 11:1-25 (ESV) –February 19th, 2012

[11:1] Now when they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples [2] and said to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. [3] If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.’” [4] And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. [5] And some of those standing there said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” [6] And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. [7] And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. [8] And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. [9] And those who went before 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!”

[11] And he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple. And when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

[12] On the following day, when they came from Bethany, he was hungry. [13] And seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to see if he could find anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. [14] And he said to it, “May no one ever eat fruit from you again.” And his disciples heard it.

[15] And they came to Jerusalem. And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold and those who bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. [16] And he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple. [17] And he was teaching them and saying 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 den of robbers.” [18] And the chief priests and the scribes heard it and were seeking a way to destroy him, for they feared him, because all the crowd was astonished at his teaching. [19] And when evening came they went out of the city.

[20] As they passed by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered away to its roots. [21] And Peter remembered and said to him, “Rabbi, look! The fig tree that you cursed has withered.” [22] And Jesus answered them, “Have faith in God. [23] Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and thrown into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him. [24] Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. [25] And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.”

OBSERVATION- WHAT DO I SEE?

(Give each paragraph a “title” and write the big things that stand out to you)

INTERPRETATION- WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

(What are some of the big questions/ ideas that the passage brings up? Dig into resources.)

APPLICATION- WHAT DO I DO?

(How does this passage apply to you and your life NOW? List a few specific ACTION steps.)

Gospel of Mark – ABF Mark Lesson 20 – Mark 11:1-25

Spring 2012, Adult Bible Fellowship

1. Mark 11:1 begins on Sunday of the week leading up to Jesus' death & resurrection. Consult I Kings 1:33 & Zechariah 9:9. Why did Jesus choose to enter Jerusalem as He did? Why the young donkey?

The securing of the donkey is a small but interesting side note. What points intrigue you here and with what applications to your own life?

2. Why did the crowd, swollen with Passover festival visitors, cry out as they did during Jesus' entry? Using Bible footnotes, what Psalms did they shout and what was their significance?

What did the crowd obviously expect?

What did Jesus do when He arrived at the temple & why?

3. Reference Jeremiah 8:13, Hosea 9:10, & Nahum 3:12 as you consider the fig tree in Mark 11:12-14. What do all the Old Testament references have in common in their references to Israel & figs? How do they help us understand what the fruitless fig tree represents (see also Matthew 3:8-10)?

What general application does this section hold for believers today, though we are not Israel?

4. What does the situation in the temple reveal about the Jews' view of God? What do Jesus' actions reveal about HIS view of the Father?

Again, we are not Israel, but what take-home lesson might there be for us, as well, as onlookers here?

5. Jesus turns the withered fig tree into a lesson for the disciples on prayer. Being careful not to take away wrong conclusions, what *primary* point is Jesus making here about prayer?

What point about forgiveness is key for a healthy prayer life & why do you think this is so?

What applications could these 2 points could have for your own life?