

The Gospel of Mark

March 7, 2021



IV. Judean Period (10.1-16.8) A. Pre-Passion (10.1-13.37) (part 2)

¹¹Now when they drew near Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, He sent two of His disciples; ²and He said to them, "Go into the village opposite you; and as soon as you have entered it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has sat. Loose it and bring it. ³And if anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord has need of it,' and immediately he will send it here."

⁴So they went their way, and found the colt tied by the door outside on the street, and they loosed it. ⁵But some of those who stood there said to them, "What are you doing, loosing the colt?"

⁶And they spoke to them just as Jesus had commanded. So they let them go. ⁷Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their clothes on it, and He sat on it. ⁸And many spread their clothes on the road, and others cut down leafy branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹Then those who went before and those who followed cried out, saying:

"Hosanna! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!'

¹⁰Blessed is the kingdom of our father David
That comes in the name of the Lord!
Hosanna in the highest!"

¹¹And Jesus went into Jerusalem and into the temple. So when He had looked around at all things, as the hour was already late, He went out to Bethany with the twelve.

¹²Now the next day, when they had come out from Bethany, He was hungry. ¹³And seeing from afar a fig tree having leaves, He went to see if perhaps He would find something on it. When He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. ¹⁴In response Jesus said to it, "Let no one eat fruit from you ever again."

And His disciples heard it.

¹⁵So they came to Jerusalem. Then Jesus went into the temple and began to drive out those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. ¹⁶And He would not allow anyone to carry wares through the temple. ¹⁷Then He taught, saying to them, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations'? But you have made it a 'den of thieves.' "

¹⁸And the scribes and chief priests heard it and sought how they might destroy Him; for they feared Him, because all the people were astonished at His teaching. ¹⁹When evening had come, He went out of the city.

²⁰Now in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. ²¹And Peter, remembering, said to Him, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree which You cursed has withered away."

On Jerusalem: 10.32f; 11.1f; 13.1f

Date: John 12.1: Jesus arrives 6 days before the Passover in Bethany **after** He had raised Lazarus from the dead (to Simon the Leper's).

cf. Num. 19.2; Deut. 21.3; 1 Sam. 6.7.... "On which no one has sat" Providence/omniscience/fame?

Prescience

cf. Zechariah 9/Mt. 21: Say to the daughter of Zion, Behold

Ps. 118 (Ps. 113-118 are the *Hallel* sung at the Passover.)

Bethany is safe....What does He see as He looked around at all things?

Why does Jesus curse the fig? How is the tree like Jerusalem/Zion (cf Luke 13; Isaiah 5) in her unfaithfulness?

This cleansing is NOT the cleansing reported in John 2.13, which took place early in Christ's ministry. How does this cleansing relate to the fruitless fig?

How is His house misused? Who is robbed?

What is the motivation of the scribes and chief priests to oppose Jesus? How does this relate to the fruitless fig?

²²So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God.
²³For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. ²⁴Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

²⁵"And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. ²⁶But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses."

²⁷Then they came again to Jerusalem. And as He was walking in the temple, the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders came to Him. ²⁸And they said to Him, "By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority to do these things?"

²⁹But Jesus answered and said to them, "I also will ask you one question; then answer Me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things: ³⁰The baptism of John—was it from heaven or from men? Answer Me."

³¹And they reasoned among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' He will say, 'Why then did you not believe him?'"

³²But if we say, 'From men'—they feared the people, for all counted John to have been a prophet indeed. ³³So they answered and said to Jesus, "We do not know."

And Jesus answered and said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things."

What does Christ give them that the chief priests will not?

On whom and what does Jesus' promise of unconditional success rest? Whose Words did Jesus speak, knowing they would be done? Whose Words would believers speak, knowing they would be done?

How is this prayer removing mountains to be cast in the sea? Whose mountains? What has this to do with the cross? Baptism?

Has this anything to do with the fruitless fig?

What 'things' are they asking after His authority to do?

The predicament of unbelieving teachers: their hearts are hardened against God and His Word, but they cannot reveal their hardened unbelief for fear of the people (i.e., true believers).

The Messianic Secret again; though it will be revealed in His death and resurrection.