

### **3.28.21 ~ Mark 11:1-11, The Passion of God in Christ...**

Today we begin what is called Passion [Holy] Week, it is set off by our Lord entering Jerusalem on a Sunday, while the people praise Him; but five days later, on Friday, the people will cry out for His death, after which, He will be crucified and laid in a tomb, but on Sunday morning, one week from when He entered Jerusalem, He will rise from the dead, just like He said He would!

There is much written in Scripture about Jesus' last week in Jerusalem (**Matthew 21-28, Mark 11-18, Luke 19-24, John 12-20**, for a total of 29 chapters). Out of a total of 89 chapters that comprise all four Gospels, about 1/3 of them are devoted to this one week period of Jesus' life!

In 2007-08, teaching through Mark's Gospel, I prepared 20 sermons on this one-week period of Jesus' life; and in 2012-13, teaching through Matthew's Gospel, I prepared 22 sermons on this same one-week period of time.

Holy Week is highly charged and extremely important, because it contains Christ's sacrificial death on a cross (payment for all our sins) and His sovereign resurrection from the tomb (demonstration of eternal life).

Apart from Creation Week, when everything was made that has been made, Passion Week, from the time of Christ's arrival into Jerusalem, to His arrest, crucifixion, and resurrection, is by far the most marvelous and miraculous week to be recorded in God's Word..

The OT records many prophecies that were to be fulfilled by the Messiah, during Passion Week, when God's sovereign plan to redeem and save us from sin's curse was made effectual.

**Exodus 12:46** (1400 B.C.)... None of the Passover Lamb's bones will be broken.

**Psalms 16:8-11** (1000 BC)... He will rise from the dead.

**Psalms 22:16**... His hands & feet pierced.

**Psalms 22:18**... Lots [i.e., dice] will be thrown for His garments.

**Psalms 69:21**... He will be given vinegar to drink.

**Psalms 110:1**... He will ascend back into heaven.

**Isaiah 53:1-12** (700 BC)... He will be despised and forsaken, led like a lamb to slaughter, and He will be put to death for our sins.

**Zechariah 9:9** (500 BC)... He will enter Jerusalem on a the colt of a donkey.

**Zechariah 11:12**... He will be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver [cf. **Exodus 21:32**, the price of a slave].

**Zechariah 13:7**... His friends will desert Him.

Next Friday at 3 pm, we'll study the events of the day of Christ's crucifixion; and next Sunday, we'll study what the Bible says about His resurrection from the grave.

But for today, please turn to **Mark 11:1-3**... Jesus and the 12 approached Jerusalem, coming near Bethphage ["house of unripe figs"], a small town near Bethany, on the SE side of the Mount of Olives. Bethany was home to Mary, Martha, and Lazarus (cf. **John 11:1**).

The Mount of Olives was where Jesus taught about the End Times Events (**Matthew 24**) that we have been studying on Wednesday nights for the past few weeks. It was from here that Jesus ascended back into heaven (see **Acts 1:9-12**), and it is here that He will return to the earth (**Zechariah 14:3-5; Revelation 1:7**), "coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him."

In **Mark 11:1-2**, we are told that Jesus sends two of His disciples into Bethphage to find a young donkey.

**Read Mark 11:4-7...** The disciples find the donkey, untie it and when asked why they are untying the colt, they say what Jesus told them to say, and (**verse 6**) the owner of the donkey told them to go ahead and take it. The people in that area knew of Jesus and His disciples and, no doubt, that He was referred to as "The Lord."

In Matthew's account of this event (**Matthew 21:2-5**) he speaks of a donkey, her colt, and the fulfillment of a messianic prophecy given in **Zechariah 9:9**.

**Matthew 21:5**, "Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold your King is coming to you, Gentle, and mounted on a donkey, even on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'"

**Read Mark 11:8-10...** This display on the part of the people is reminiscent of an ancient practice (recorded in **2Kings 9:12-13**), where the people are showing homage to a new king. In Mark's narration the people seem to express their acceptance of Christ's claim as the Messiah who will sit on the throne of David.

The people are excited, throwing down their outer garments and branches (*cf. John 12:13, palm branches*), they are expressing their hope and desire for their Messiah-King to free them from Roman occupation and oppression, and to bring them prosperity.

**Matthew 1:1**, "The record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ [the Messiah], the son of David, the son of Abraham."

**Matthew 2:1-2**, "Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, 'Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.'"

In **Matthew 27:11**, Jesus is standing before Pilate (the governor), who asks Him, "'Are you the King of the Jews?' And Jesus said to him, 'It is as you say.'"

In **Mark 11:9-10**, the people are shouting, "Hosanna!" This is a contraction of the words "save" and "please," forming a prayerful supplication with great expectation, leading to adoration, praise, and joy.

This praise in Mark 11:9-10 has its origin in **Psalms 118:25-26**, "O Lord, do save, we beseech You; O Lord, we beseech You, do send prosperity! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord; We have blessed you from the house of the Lord."

The name Jesus is the Greek rendering of the Hebrew name Yeshua, which means "God saves," or "God rescues," simply put, this is "God's Salvation" in human flesh, Immanuel [God with us], God's Son, Savior.

In **Mark 11:10** the people praise the coming of the Davidic Kingdom when the Messiah-King will rule on the earth for 1000 years.

The Jews were waiting for their Messiah to come and liberate them from Gentile Rule [at this time it was Rome], the Messiah would bring prosperity, and He would sit on the throne of David.

The Jews are still waiting for their Messiah; they rejected Jesus Christ, because they didn't understand that He was coming the first time, to free them from the penalty of sin, and the second time (in the future), to usher in the Millennial Kingdom and sit on the throne of Israel for a thousand years; Jesus is the Messiah-

King, (**John 10:14**, *The Good Shepherd*; **1Peter 5:4**, *The Chief Shepherd*; **Philippians 2:9-11**, *Every knee will bow, every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord*;

**Revelation 19:16**, "And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.").

In the **Matthew 21:10-11** account it says, "When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, 'Who is this?' The crowds answered, 'This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.'"

**Read Mark 11:11...** Jesus looks around the inner and outer courts of the Temple, nothing is hidden from His gaze; He then returns to Bethany for the night (about 2 miles distance), as it had been a very long day, during which Jesus told His disciples what was going to happen in Jerusalem (see **Mark 10:32-34**).

And so, the first day of Passion Week comes to a close; but there is much more to take place over the next five days, as Jesus pours out His compassion for those people in and around Jerusalem, teaching them about God's great love for them.

Wednesday seems to be a day of rest, for there is nothing recorded in the Gospels.

Thursday Jesus makes the Passover Meal about Himself, i.e., the Lord's Supper, making it clear that He will be the sacrificial lamb, and it will be His blood that is shed for the sins of the people.

Next Wednesday night we will study how and why the old covenant of Passover was fulfilled in and through the new covenant of the Lord's Supper.

**Hebrews 10:9-10**, "'Behold, I have come to do Your will.' He takes away the first [covenant of the Law, Passover] in order to establish the second [covenant of Grace, the Lord's Supper]. By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."

**Hebrews 10:14**, "For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified." **16-20**, "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws upon their heart, and on their mind I will write them," He then says, 'And their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.' Now where there is forgiveness of these things, there is no longer any offering for sin. Therefore... ..we have confidence to enter the holy place [*into the presence of God*] by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh" [*He died for our sins, was buried, and on the third day He rose from the grave alive*]

Early Friday morning of Passion week, Jesus was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, and taken to stand before Annas, then Caiaphas, then Pilate, then Herod, and finally back to Pilate; where Jesus was handed over to soldiers to be flogged, after which, He was crucified.

All of this was done according to the sovereign plan and purpose of God; so that you and I might be made acceptable to the Holy, Righteous and Just God of Creation; for we are redeemed, justified, made to be without any sin yet remaining to be punished, because all sins have been paid for, leaving you and me justified before God (just-if-I'd never sinned).

**2Corinthians 5:21**, "[God] made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

Jesus took our sins upon Himself, paying our sin debt to God, because there was no other way for us to be saved.

**Romans 3:23-24**, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus."

**Romans 5:8**, "God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

**Romans 6:23**, "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

**Romans 8:1-2**, "Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death."

**Ephesians 2:4-5**, "God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our [sins], made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved).

**Hebrews 10:10**, "We have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."

The Creativity of God is exemplified in Creation Week; but the compassion of God for lost sinners is exemplified in Passion Week. It is because of God's great and merciful love for us that He has done this (**John 14:6**), Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."

Jesus is the only way to God (*we repent and believe in Him*), He is the only truth concerning salvation (*everyone is guilty of sin and deserves death*), He is the only Life with God (*He alone grants forgiveness for sins and eternal life to all those who repent, believe and follow Him*).

Have you repented of your sins and believed in Jesus Christ [God's Son, Lord and Savior] for salvation?

**Romans 10:9-10**, "that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth confesses, resulting in salvation," and for that reason **Romans 10:13** declares, "Whoever will call on the name of the Lord [for the forgiveness of their sins] will be saved."

Have you done that? If not, why haven't you?

Please, don't leave here today without settling this issue, I beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

Let's pray...

*Pastor Mike*  
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