

**“Jesus: King and Judge”**  
“A Journey with Jesus”—Part 19  
*Mark 11:1-25*

**1. Jesus presents Himself as King.**

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you doing this?' tell him, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.'" They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, some people standing there asked, "What are you doing, untying that colt?" They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go. When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted,

"Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!" "Hosanna in the highest!"

Jesus entered Jerusalem and went to the temple. He looked around at everything, but since it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the Twelve.

Mark 11:1-11

- Jesus declared Himself to be Israel's King and Messiah.
- Jesus deliberately challenged the religious leadership.
- This challenge set in motion the plot that led to His arrest, trial and crucifixion.

**2. A lesson on failure.**

The next day as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry. Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to find out if it had any fruit. When he reached it, he found nothing but leaves, because it was not the season for figs. Then he said to the tree, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard him say it.

Mark 11:12-14

***The next day:***

In the morning, as they went along, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots. Peter remembered and said to Jesus, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered!"

Mark 11:20-21

- Israel had failed to be fruitful for God.
- Like the fig tree, Israel had nothing but leaves (outward righteousness) but it had dried up from the roots (no inward righteousness).

### 3. A lesson on prayer.

"Have faith in God," Jesus answered. "I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins." Mark 11:22-25

- Prayer must be in the will of God.
- Prayer involves forgiveness as well as faith.
- Prayer draws believers together.
- Our forgiving spirit is evidence that our hearts are right with God and that we are willing to obey His will.

Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that confess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. Hebrews 13:15-16

### 4. A lesson on rationalization.

On reaching Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple area and began driving out those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves, and would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts. And as he taught them, he said, "Is it not written:

"My house will be called  
a house of prayer for all nations?"

But you have made it a den of robbers." The chief priests and the teachers of the law heard this and began looking for a way to kill him, for they feared him, because the whole crowd was amazed at his teaching. When evening came, they went out of the city.

Mark 11:15-19

- You can't make right what dishonors God.

The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? "I the Lord search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve." Jeremiah 17:9-10

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:1-2

- Jesus exposes the sin of the religious leaders.
- The Jews looked at the temple primarily as a place of sacrifice.
- Jesus looked at the temple primarily as a place of prayer.

**Application:** How do you primarily see our time of worship? Is this a place of prayer for you?

*The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.*  
Psalm 51:17

Whenever an individual or group dries up spiritually, it is usually from the roots. How are your roots? What of your faith have you given up?