

Calvary Bible College

1100 Caprice Drive • Castle Rock • Colorado • 80109
Tel: 303.663.2514 • Web: www.cbccastlerock.org



Mark: The Servant Gospel, NT352

Part III. The Servant Presented as King and Rejected. Chapters 11–13

Class 9

Homework Review

Chapter 11

Joey: Servants Obey Even When It Does Not Make Sense

1 Now when they drew near Jerusalem (from Jericho), to Bethpage (house of figs) and Bethany (house of dates), at the Mount of Olives, He sent two of His disciples;

2 and 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.**

3 **And if anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord has need (literally & to fulfill Zech. 9:9) of it,' and immediately he will send it here.**"

4 So they went their way, and found the colt tied by the door outside on the street, and they loosed it.

5 But some of those who stood there said to them, "What are you doing, loosing the colt?"

6 And they spoke to them just as Jesus had commanded. So they let them go.

7 Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their clothes on it, and He sat on it.

-This is so contrary to what we have read thus far in Mark about drawing attention to Himself, making demonstration. **Morgan** says this:

He had never definitely provoked anything in the nature of demonstration, but there can be no escape from the conviction that this was exactly what He did at this time. Crowds were there; He might have passed, as He had passed upon other occasions, almost unnoticed into Jerusalem; quietly and meekly walking in the midst of His own. Here He made definite arrangements, the actual carrying out of which must inevitably draw attention to Him, and center it upon Him. So we see Him, in what we sometimes speak of, and in some senses correctly, as the triumphal entry, drawing attention to Himself, compelling the whole city to know the hour of His arrival.

8 And many spread their clothes on the road, and others cut down leafy branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

9 Then those who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: "Hosanna! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord (Ps.118:25-26)!"

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

-**Morgan**: Here He was seen, the Servant of Jehovah, coming to establish His Kingdom; the Kingdom described by Himself when He said He came not to be ministered unto, but to minister; the Kingdom of service, in which positions of greatness were those won by lowliness of service rendered; the Kingdom which was to be founded upon that to which He did in mystery refer, the giving of His own life as a ransom.

11 And Jesus went into Jerusalem and into the temple.

-Morgan: In imagination think, not as a Hebrew, but as a Roman; and think of the triumphal entry of a Roman emperor into his city; and then look at this pageant of poverty, lacking all the things usually associated with royalty and greatness. A procession of poverty, the scattering of the clothes the people wore, the broken branches of the trees, and the shouting of the Galilean mob! So, He rode in the dignity of a great meekness, divested of all the things that humanity had for so long associated with Kingship, and still associates with Kingship. It was a pageant of poverty.

v.11 cont. So when He had looked around at all things, as the hour was already late (literally and figuratively), He went out to Bethany with the twelve.

-We wonder, what did His face look like?

Matthew's Account, 21:1-17

John: The Servant Does Not Bless What is Not Fruitful

12 Now the next day, (Never spent the night in Jerusalem, never felt at home in Jerusalem) when they had come out from Bethany, He was hungry.

-Only other time we read of Jesus being hungry: After His 40 days of temptation in the wilderness

-Was He hungry for food or something else?

-‘He’ in particular was hungry, but not his disciples, neither were they physically hungry nor for anything other than food!

-Pulpit: The fact that he was hungry would lead us to the conclusion that he had not been spending the night in the house of Martha and Mary. It is far more likely that he had been in the open air during the previous night, fasting and praying.

13 And seeing from afar a fig tree having leaves (meaning the leaves could be hiding the figs), He went to see if perhaps He would find something on it.

-He probably hopeful, but not cynical; he was realistic but not overly optimistic

v.13 cont. ... When He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs.

-it is peculiar to the fig tree that its fruit begins to appear before its leaves. It was, therefore, a natural supposition that on this particular tree, with its leaves fully developed, there might be found at least some ripened fruit.

-Leaves speak of a great show, a great appearance, but alas! there is no fruit

14 In response Jesus said to it, "Let no one eat fruit from you ever again."

-Matt. adds: **Immediately the fig tree withered away.**

-As to the charge of Horticulture cruelty: **Morgan-** There is no more warrant for criticizing our Lord for destroying a tree for the purpose of teaching, than there is for objecting to cutting down a Christmas tree for our children, or the plucking of the petals from a flower in a lesson on botany.

-Morgan: What is really going on here? We think of this time as the hour of His rejection, as the hour in which the men of His own nation and people finally said, "We will not have this Man to reign over us." All that is true; but it is equally true that this was not merely the hour when His nation rejected Him; it was the hour when He finally rejected that nation, that one tree amongst many nation trees.

-With great solemnity and gravity of manner and method, He will arraign the rulers before Him as in a courtroom, compelling them to find verdicts concerning themselves, and pass sentences upon themselves; until in solemn denunciation He actually came to the hour in which He said, -and mark the words now most carefully: -"The Kingdom of God shall be taken away from you, and shall be

given to a nation (*this nation is from Heaven and will have many members scattered thruout the earth, and it will be called the church*) bringing forth the fruits thereof."

-We lament: If only they would have judged themselves they would not have been judged!

-Hughes: The reason Jesus cursed the barren fig tree was because he wanted it to become a visual parable of what was happening to Israel. In actuality he honored that tree, making it the most useful tree that ever grew (*besides the tree that provided His cross*)! It was, and is, a tree from which thousands have learned about themselves and turned back to God. If one soul has been made to consider its *fruitless* life through that tree, it did not wither in vain.

-How would a person judge themselves by this picture of a fig tree withered?

-Here is how: Leaves can say anything. We make them talk what we want people to believe

-But fruit shows what we are and no fruit contradicts what the leaves say we are!

-Did Jesus curse this fig tree or did he hasten its cursed condition?

Morgan- The Lord came and found that there was no fruit. The tree was very quick to bear leaves and here demonstrated the fact that there was no possibility of fruit bearing. It was a tree that had failed in itself, and so became a perfectly just illustration of that which our Lord desired at the moment to teach.

-The tree was already cursed inwardly, yet outwardly it bore the semblance of a beautiful tree, but there was no fruit, and never would there be.

-Pharaoh's heart was very hard, very set, before long God ever hardened His heart

-He was given every opportunity to turn from his ways, but he would not

-So it was with Israel.

-What the disciples and all of Israel saw was an already cursed tree whose outward reflection of inward self-cursedness was sped up dramatically.

-Morgan: When in the Divine economy judgment becomes punishment or chastisement that is necessary; it is nevertheless God's strange work, His strange act. So this action of Jesus was undoubtedly strange; yet it is clearly central to this particular paragraph. Isaiah declared: "Jehovah will rise up as in Mount Perazim, He will be angry as in the valley of Gibeon; that He may do His work, His strange work, and bring to pass His act, His strange act."

-Remember He is rejecting the nation, the one fig tree

-He is not rejecting all individual Jews, for many will be baptized into the body of Christ

-Remember He has set aside Israel, temporarily blinded Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

-He will then begin the process of grafting back in the natural branch

-So what is the meaning of this for us?

-Morgan: He meant first to teach that the fruitless must inevitably be destroyed; that life is God-given, and always for the purpose of fruit-bearing.

-We read that great wail of the psalmist concerning the vine that was planted and broken down, because it failed to bear fruit. Isaiah in the fifth chapter writes the plaintive cry of Jehovah because His people had failed: "He looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild or stinky grapes."... Because the nation created and sustained by God, had failed to produce the fruit which was the natural outcome of the life which He had thus created and sustained, the decree went forth: "I will tell you what I will do to My vineyard: I will take away the hedge thereof, and it shall be eaten up; I will break down the wall thereof, and it shall be trodden down."

v.14 cont. ... **And His disciples heard it** (they heard it before they saw it).

-And so it is with people, there exists an inward cursedness already resident ... in the future John will say in **John 3:17-18**-

17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

18 "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, (could we say here, already cursed? and why would they be condemned, because of their inward cursedness? No He bore their curse on another tree)he will be condemned because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

-Matt. adds: 20 And when the disciples saw it, they marveled, saying, "How did the fig tree wither away so soon?"

-They were not marveling over the fact of the tree withering

-They marveled at how soon it withered.

-They marveled at Him being able to do it so quickly!

-in 11:21 Peter remembers this the next morning and saw the tree withered and remarked to Jesus that this was the tree that Jesus cursed.

-Peter said 'cursed' not Jesus.

-What Jesus did was affirm and manifest the curse that was already within the tree

-Just like He bore our inward 'curse' so we will not be condemned but by faith be free of the curse of sin!

Matthew's Account, 21:18-19

Joey: The Servant Cleans His House and Makes It Accessible to All

15 So they came to Jerusalem. Then Jesus went into the temple (the heart of the matter) 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.

16 And He would not allow anyone to carry wares (or merchandise) through the temple (as a short cut).

And when cleansed

17 Then He taught, saying to them, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations' (Is. 56:6-8)? **But you have made it a 'den of thieves.'** (a safe place for thieves & sinners) "

18 And 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.

19 When evening had come, He went out of the city.

Matthew's Account, 21:23-27

John: Faith in God Nourishes the Prayer Life of Servants

20 Now in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots.

21 And Peter, remembering, said to Him, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree which You cursed has withered away."

22 So Jesus answered (what was the question? It was Why?) and said to them, "Constantly **Have faith in God** (this is the reason the nation will withered-unbelief).

Morgan-The central value of that interpretation of the withered fig tree is that faith is the principle of fruitfulness. They wondered at His power to destroy, or so it would seem from the simple reading of the story. "Rabbi, behold, the fig tree which You cursed is withered away!" He immediately replied, "Have faith in God."

-Jesus' response tells us that this tree is more than a tree, but a parable!

This Faith is also the key to fruitfulness in prayer

23 For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says (*Matt. adds: ask aiteo, as a lesser in submission asking*) **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.**

24 Therefore I say to you, whatever things you *are constantly asking* **when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.**

-**Morgan:** He gave them the secret of making destruction unnecessary; and therefore the secret of removing obstacles to the Kingdom, as He continued, if you have faith, then you shall say to a mountain, 'Be removed, and cast into the sea'. In the life of the nation, when faith perishes, the principle of life perishes, and the possibility of fruitfulness passes away.

-Even so, for these men, here was the supreme and abiding necessity, "Have faith in God." Fruit was not found in the nation, because life had departed; and life had departed, because faith in God had departed.

-The keys of the Kingdom will be turned over to you and there will large obstacles but this very faith that distinguishes you from this nation is all you need to ask for these obstacles to be removed!

Matthew's Account, 21:20-22

Joey: As Servants Earthly Forgiveness Comes Before Heaven's Forgiveness

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.

26 But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father (*He is still your Father!*) **in heaven forgive your trespasses."**

-Even with faith in prayer if you have unforgiveness towards others this will hinder your faith-prayer life

-FOR the first work of faith in our lives is our forgiveness, and the understanding of that faith and that forgiveness is constantly forgiving others!

-The first fruit in our relationship with Christ & the Father is forgiveness!

No Matthew Account

John: There Are Times When The Servant Will Not Answer

27 Then they came again to Jerusalem. And as He was walking in the temple, the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders came to Him.

28 And they said to Him, "By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority to do these things?"

-**Barclay:** They hoped to put Jesus into a dilemma. If he said he was acting under his own authority they might well arrest him as a megalomaniac before he did any further damage. If he said that he was acting on the authority of God they might well arrest him on an obvious charge of blasphemy, on the grounds that God would never give anyone authority to create a disturbance in the courts of his own house.

29 But 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:

30 The baptism of John--was it from heaven or from men? Answer Me."

-**Barclay** again: This impaled them on the horns of a dilemma. If they said it was divine, they knew that Jesus would ask why they had stood out against it. Worse than that—if they said it was divine,

Jesus could reply that John had in fact pointed everyone to him, and that therefore he was divinely attested and needed no further authority. If these members of the Sanhedrin agreed that John's work was divine, they would be compelled to accept Jesus as the Messiah. On the other hand, if they said that John's work was merely human, now that John had the added distinction of being a martyr, they knew quite well that the listening people would cause a riot.

31 And they reasoned among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' He will say, 'Why then did you not believe him?' 32 But if we say, 'From men' "--they feared the people, for all counted John to have been a prophet indeed. 33 So they answered and said to Jesus, "We do not know." And Jesus answered and said to them, "*I know, but...* **Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.**"

-But He did answer them, but in parabolic form

-He does this in Matt. 21:28-45.

-He does two things: 1-Answers the question about John the Baptist, and 2- tells them His authority

-The third part is that it had no changing effect on them whatsoever-they still wanted to kill Him

-Let's read these verses from **Matt. 21:**

On J.B.:

28 "But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, 'Son, go, work today in my vineyard.'

29 He answered and said, 'I will not,' but afterward he regretted it and went.

30 Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go.

31 Which of the two did the will of his father?"

They said to Him, "The first."

Jesus said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you.

32 For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him; but tax collectors and harlots believed him (*they changed their minds*); and when you saw it, you did not afterward relent or change your mind as the first son, and believe him.

On His Authority: (this is repeated in Mark 12 for next week, we'll read and comment more next week)

33 "Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. 34 Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit (*recall no fruit on the fig tree that should have had some*).

35 And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another.

36 Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them.

37 Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, "They will respect my son.'

38 But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, "This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.'

39 So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him.

40 "Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?"

41 They said to Him, "He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons."

42 Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures:

"The stone which the builders rejected

Has become the chief cornerstone.

This was the LORD's doing,

And it is marvelous in our eyes'?"

43 "Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it. 44 And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder."

45 Now when the chief priests and Pharisees heard His parables, they perceived that He was

speaking of them. 46 But when they sought to lay hands on Him, they feared the multitudes,
because they took Him for a prophet.

Matthew's Account, 21:23-27

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Chapter 11

Joey - Servants Obey Even When It Does Not Make Sense

The Triumphal Entry (1-11) of the Suffering Servant

- These verses are the start of Passion week
 - The purpose of Jesus's coming
 - To triumph over sin

Approximately 38 percent of the Mark's Gospel is devoted to passion week (chapters 11–16) and 20 percent to the day of Jesus' death (chaps. 14–15).

1 Now when they drew near Jerusalem, *coming up from Jericho uphill almost 3,900 feet in a 17 mile stretch*

altitude change: 1290 feet below sea level to 2600 above sea level

- *Walking up Manitou Hill to high school*
- *Singing the Songs of Ascent*
 - Everyone is getting ready for Passover. The city would have been about 3 times its normal size. Josephus tells us that were 10 times more Roman soldiers in Jerusalem guarding against potential uprisings from the Zealots. Jerusalem would have been busting at the seams
- Jesus is drawing near to suffering and betrayal in obedience to the Father
 - This is the last week of the life of Christ
 - If you only had a week left, would you want to be spending it like Jesus will spend His?
 - This is Palm Sunday

- He's drawing near to the cross
 - How much love do you have to have for God, who is asking you to do this, and for the people you are doing it for?

Hebrews 12:2 New King James Version (NKJV)

looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

to Bethpage (House of Figs)
and Bethany (House of Dates)

It two miles southeast of Jerusalem on the road to Jericho and it was the home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. Jesus stayed here when He was in Jerusalem (cf. Mark 11:11; Matt. 21:17).

at the Mount of Olives, what do they say in the commercial real estate business?
Location, location, location...prime spiritual real-estate

- Where Jesus will ascend to the right hand of the Father and where He will return

He sent two of His disciples; 2 and He said to them, "Go into the village opposite you; probably Bethpage and as soon as you have entered it you will find a colt of a donkey tied, on which no one has sat. Loose it and bring it.

Why did Jesus arrange this? What's this about?

This is the first and only time where Jesus allowed Himself to publically be proclaimed their Messiah...their King

- What had He telling people?
 - Suh! Don't tell anyone
 - Now...He's intentionally drawing attention to Himself to show publically to everyone His identity.

A colt is important to an OT prophesy

- 500 years before where we are at in Mark...Zechariah made a prediction

Zechariah 9:9 Header in my bible: **The Coming King**

9 "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion (Jerusalem)! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just (righteous) and having salvation, Lowly (humble) and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.

In that day, a king who came into Jerusalem riding a colt – as opposed to a mighty war-horse like a stallion – came as a man of peace offering peace ...Jesus is the Prince of Peace offering peace

Jesus didn't come to Jerusalem as a conquering general, but as a suffering servant, but **He is going to triumph!!!** It will be the greatest victory of all time!

When Jesus comes back the 2nd time, what kind of horse will He be riding?

Revelation 19:11

11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.

Back in **Vs. 3 And if anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord has need of it,' and immediately he will send it here."**

'The Lord has need of it,' ...kind of a strange statement

- How does the all-powerful Almighty need anything?
 - God works on the principle of partnership with us
 - We represent Him and He works through the cooperation of men and women who are surrender to His Will in order to get His work done on earth...
 - Jesus will **borrow** a boat, a house, a colt, an upper room and a tomb...He only needs it for the weekend 😊
 - Does He need us? Could He get the Work done all by Himself? Yep! But He wants to work through us for our benefit
- APP: Would you allow the Lord to use whatever He has need of?
 - Your car, your resources, your gifts and talents, your voice to speak to someone for Him. To tell them about Him and what He has done for them
 - Are there things that The Lord had need of, that you are holding back from Him that would advance His work on earth?

NOW...Put yourself in these guys shoes...

Scenario:

This would be like you and I going to Medved, grabbing the keys to one of their brand new 'vehicles and telling the salesman when he asks what are you doing, **The Lord has need of it,'** and driving off thinking...I'm going to be a part of a prison ministry...people are going to come visit me for Grand Theft Auto.

Yeah, but didn't Jesus tell these 2 guys **immediately he will send it here."**

- The disciples don't hear the last sentence Jesus says very well ☺

It you were one of the two that Jesus asked to do this task, you may have been thought...I wonder how this is going to play out?

- Jesus doesn't give them a lot of information to go on
 - Doesn't give them a why...just go do it
 - They are simply asked to obey

We are no different, sometimes Jesus doesn't give us a lot of details when He asks us to walk in faith.

- He asks us to take one or two steps in faith and in obedience
 - BUT...Our flesh wants step 10 of a 10-step process

Sometimes He asks us to do things that don't make any sense to us.

- Let me give you a biblical example

In Genesis 12:1-5

Now the Lord had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. 2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." 4 So Abram departed as the Lord had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. 5 Then Abram took Sarai his wife and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people whom they had acquired in Haran, and they departed to go to the land of Canaan. So they came to the land of Canaan.

God speaking to Abram...

- Pack up your U-Haul and get ready to move
 - Cool Lord...where are WE moving too?
 - Don't worry about it, just pack up and I'll guide you along the way
 - A venture in faith
 - You know as you go...as you trust and take steps of faith
 - The **unknown** becomes the **known** when you have the faith and courage to step into it.

Look at the response to this strange request

4 So they went their way,

No argument and no questions... **"they went their way"**

- Do these 2 men have a history with Jesus?
 - Do we have a history with Him?
 - Hasn't time and experience proven that things work out well with Him no matter how strange His request may be? look at the next part of vs. 5

and found the colt tied by the door outside on the street, and they loosed it.

- Just like Jesus said it would be!

5 But some of those who stood there said to them, "What are you doing, loosing the colt?"

- Jesus said that question would be asked!

6 And they spoke to them just as Jesus had commanded. So they let them go.

- Jesus said that would happen!
 - Counseling: Speak what Jesus has commanded and trust the results to Jesus!

7 Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their clothes on it as a cushion, and He sat on it.

This colt has never been ridden before...it is not used to carrying the weight of Jesus!

- But Jesus is carrying an unimaginable weight that will get heavier and heavier as the next few days unfold.

8 And many spread their clothes on the road, and others cut down leafy branches from the palm trees and spread them on the road.

Palm trees don't grow in Jerusalem...the altitude is too high

- They had to go down to Jericho to get them and bring them up to Jerusalem in order to worship Jesus
 - Proactive in their worship.... they were prepared with palm branches
 - Be ready when you walk in the building to worship. It's a part of your heart preparation not just a part of the service that's optional

9 Then those who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: "Hosanna! Hosanna! means Save Now! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!'

Psalm 118:21-26 says...

21 I will praise You, For You have answered me, And have become my salvation.

22 The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone.

23 This was the Lord's doing; It is marvelous in our eyes. 24 This is the day the Lord has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it. 25 Save now, I pray, O Lord; O Lord, I pray, send now prosperity. 26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! We have blessed you from the house of the Lord.

- They weren't crying out for their personal salvation. They were crying out for a leader that would free them politically.

Deliver us from the oppression of the Romans!

- We probably would have cried out for the same thing!
 - o That's not what Jesus is riding into the city to do...He's there to free them from something worse than Rome! The oppression of their own sin

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

Their expectation was that the kingdom of David would be restored to Israel, involving someone from David's line to sit on the throne restore Israel to her former glory.

11 And 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. It's unsafe for Him to stay in Jerusalem.

- Jesus makes a comprehensive inspection of what's going on around the temple area and the condition of God's people that He will address the next day. The rest of Chapter 11 are the results of His inspection.
 - o If Jesus came to inspect our homes?
 - What would He find?
 - How about our hearts? Our hearts should be His home

Servants Obey Even When It Does Not Make Sense

Matthew's Account, 21:1-17

John - The Servant Does Not Bless What is Not Fruitful

12 Now the next day, when they had come out from Bethany, He was hungry.

13 And 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. 14 In response Jesus said to it, "**Let no one eat fruit from you ever again.**" **And His disciples heard it.**

Why would Jesus talk to a tree and why would He curse this tree if it's not the season for figs?

The problem is the leaves

- It is strange for a fig tree to have leaves and no figs
 - Christ is illustrating a false advertisement
 - A visual parable of what is happening to Israel
 - Appearing to have fruit, but actually having none at all
 - This tree was cursed because it professed to have fruit, but did not.
- He is referring to the Nation of Israel and more specifically the Temple
 - The Temple represented a love relationship with God and others
 - It was turned into something that it was never intended to be and it has not fruit of what it is supposed to be.
- Israel is figuratively represented by a fig tree that should bear fruit – Hosea 9. This is like a movie trailer an event that takes place in 70 AD.
 - A real love relationship with The Lord leads to fruit bearing produced by The Holy Spirit...They have pretense of this fruit

Matthew's Account, 21:18-19

Joey - The Servant Cleans His House and Makes It Accessible to All

- We saw Jesus exercise humility as He rode in on a colt...now we see Him exercise His authority.

15 So they came to Jerusalem. Then Jesus went into the temple of God through the Court of the Gentiles and began to drive out by physical force those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves to the poor.

- The poor were permitted to offer sacrifices of doves or pigeons instead of sheep and oxen
 - Doves was a poor man offering

The Court of the Gentiles is where all of the commercial traffic was taking place.

- Gentiles as well as Jews were allowed to enter the large outer courtyard.
- This is the only area where Gentiles could worship and pray

Only Jews were allowed to proceed beyond a high partition-wall to the interior parts of the Temple.

In the inner three sections of the Temple, Jewish women could go no farther than the Court of Women. The circumcised males could go on into the Court of the Israelites. Only priests were allowed to enter the innermost Court of the Priests which led directly into the temple where sacrifices were offered

What were people selling and buying in the Court of the Gentiles?

Merchants sold oil, wine, salt, and sacrificial animals that were required for the Temple sacrifices. Many of the buyers were visitors who had come to the Temple to worship and offer sacrifices. Local worshippers also found it convenient to buy such things right there at the temple. The trade in animals that had passed the criteria for sacrifice and the changing of money into the coins required by the temple treasury were necessary. Jesus' protest was not against the selling of those items, but against the commercial circus that was taking place in the Court of the Gentiles. Their commercialism was interrupting Gentiles from worshiping in the place that God set up for them. They were desecrating it.

What did the moneychangers do?

Moneychangers sat at tables stacked with coins. Many of the visiting worshippers did not have the Hebrew half shekel coins required for payment of the Temple taxes and so they had to exchange their Roman coins for the proper Hebrew coins. Starting on their twentieth birthday, every male Jew was required to pay a yearly half shekel towards the cost of the religious services in the Temple. Because foreign coins had idolatrous images engraved on them, they were not an acceptable means of payment. The money changers charged a fee to exchange the Greek and Roman coins most people had for the required Hebrew coins. Two days of wages was their fee. It' like 26.99 % ARP today

Jesus **began to drive out by physical force those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves to the poor.**

This is a side of Jesus, in Mark, we haven't seen before...gentle, meek and mild Children's Ministry Jesus, is flipping over tables throwing everybody out! Both buyers and sellers.

This is the second time this has happen. Once at the beginning of Jesus ministry and here at the end. The first time this happened was in...

John 2:13-16 New King James Version (NKJV)

Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 14 And He found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers doing business. 15 When He had made a **whip of cords**, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers' money and overturned the tables. 16 And He said to those who sold doves, "Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!"

Why was Jesus upset for the second time in Mark 11:15?

Because the place that people were supposed to be able to meet with God unobstructed became a place where people were being robbed.

The temple area was filled with profiteers who worked in cooperation with the priests and robbed people by forcing them to purchase approved sacrificial animals and currencies at inflated prices.

- These people were taking advantage of people's sincere heart to worship God and making money off it

The people were being fleeced instead of being feed.

- That's why He's ticked

16 And He would not allow anyone to carry wares (merchandise) through the temple.

What was wrong about carrying things through the Temple?

- People were taking a shortcut through the Court of the Gentiles as they carried their things between the Mount of Olives and the city of Jerusalem. The temple authorities had prohibited this, but the rule wasn't being enforced and all sorts of irreverent conduct was going on that stirred Jesus up.

17 Then He taught, saying to them, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations'?"

For all the nations... Mark alone has this phrase from Isaiah 56:7

Isaiah 56:6-8 New King James Version (NKJV)

“Also the sons of the foreigner Who join themselves to the Lord, to serve Him, And to love the name of the Lord, to be His servants— Everyone who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, And holds fast My covenant— 7 Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, And make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices Will be accepted on My altar; For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.” 8 The Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, says, “Yet I will gather to him Others besides those who are gathered to him.”

The Temple was a place that God wanted to use to impact Nations. The Nation of Israel first and then to have the Nation reach out to others.

- Their relationship with God was supposed to reach out to others, but the Nation wasn't bearing the fruit that it should have been, so are other nations going to listen? Probably not!

This place of prayer was made into a dishonest marketplace. God intended the temple to be a house of prayer for all nations, but they had made it a den of thieves.

How?

- What's a den of thieves?
 - A place where a thief can come and feel safe
 - That's what happening here...thieves are running the show in the House of The Lord

The sellers, money changers and the temple authorities were guilty of extortion and desecration of the house of prayer, so Jesus assumes and exercises Messianic authority over His Father's house and puts an end to the political and financial abuse.

18 And 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.

This probably shocked the chief priests...you can't stop the sacrifices. You are messing our system up, we got a good thing going here. The crowds were infatuated with Jesus' teaching and they were losing their hold on the people.

It was going to dry up! So, the scribes and chief priests saw Jesus as a threat to their very way of life and they *continually and repeatedly* were looking for ways to kill him.

19 When evening had come, He went out of the city.

- The Servant Cleans His House and Makes It Accessible to All

In our next section, John will tell us how we don't allow our prayer life to dry up.

Matthew's Account, 21:23-27

John - Faith in God Nourishes the Prayer Life of Servants

20 Now in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots.

21 And Peter, remembering, said to Him, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree which You cursed has withered away." 22 So Jesus answered and said to them, "**Constantly Have faith in God.**

23 For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain (difficulty), '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.

24 Therefore I say to you, whatever things you *constantly* asking when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

- Approach the Father in faith, according to His will and not doubting in your heart that He is able to do whatever you ask Him that lines up with His will
 - Do you believe that about prayer?
-
-
-
-
-

Matthew's Account, 21:20-22

Joey - As Servants, Earthly Forgiveness Comes Before Heaven's Forgiveness

- One more thing that will hinder your prayer life...

25 "And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, (command) make a choice to **forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.**

- Prayer, worship and time in The Word expose our hearts towards people...Have you ever been praying and God shows you that heart towards someone is not right? Maybe...you didn't even know it, but maybe you do.
 - Maybe you even want to stay felling that way you feel about that person because they've hurt you or wronged you in some way or you perceive that they have.

Hebrews 12:15 New Living Translation (NLT)

15 Look after each other so that none of you fails to receive the grace of God. Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many.

- What do you do if you are there? Vs. 26
 - o Pull out the bitter root that is troubling you and corrupting others by forgiving that person.
- If you don't by your choice to not forgive...Look at the warning of vs. 26

26 But if you do not by your own choice **forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses."**

Does this mean that our salvation is revoked if we don't forgive someone?

- No! it means that you don't understand the forgiveness that you've received

You and I didn't deserve it, but we freely received it by faith and enjoy the benefits that come with it (the grace, mercy and peace of God), but you won't graciously extend what you have received to someone else.

- God has forgiven us way more that we are ever going to have to forgive someone else.
 - o It's unjust to receive His forgiveness for all our transgressions (purposely crossing the line) and not extend forgiveness to people that purposely cross the line on us, who trespass against us.
- It's a choice of the will...for me it's not a feeling. I don't feel like forgiving people who have hurt me...I choose to...I cross the bridge.

Matthew 5:7

Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.

As Servants Earthly Forgiveness Comes Before Heaven's Forgiveness

No Matthew Account

John - There Are Times When The Servant Will Not Answer

27 Then they came again to Jerusalem. And as He was **walking in the temple**, the chief priests, **the scribes**, and the elders came to Him.

28 And they said to Him, "By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority to do these things?"

29 But 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:**

30 The baptism of John--was it from heaven or from men? Answer Me."

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

32 But if we say, 'From men' "--they feared the people, for all counted John to have been a prophet indeed.

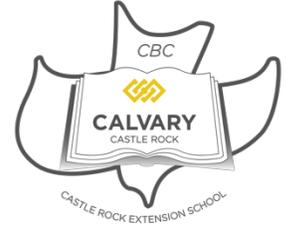
33 So they answered and said to Jesus, "We do not know." And Jesus answered and said to them, "**Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things."**

Matthew's Account, 21:23-27

Calvary Bible College

1100 Caprice Drive • Castle Rock • Colorado • 80109

Tel: 303.663.2514 • Web: www.cbccastlerock.org



Name: _____

Mark: The Servant Gospel, NT352

Homework for Class #9

List at least one personal application not mentioned in class under each of our paragraph headings.

11:1-11: Servants Obey Even When It Does Not Make Sense

11:12-14: The Servant Does Not Bless What is Not Fruitful

11:15-19: The Servant Cleans His House and Makes It Accessible to All

11:20-24: Faith in God Nourishes the Prayer Life of Servants

11:25-33: There Are Times When The Servant Will Not Answer