

# **Mark 11**

**Mark 11.1-11** – events on Sunday and Monday of the last week

**V1** – Jesus was nearing his goal of going to Jerusalem (regardless of the consequences)  
-Bethpage and Bethany were two "suburbs" of Jerusalem (on the slopes of the Mt. of Olives)  
-**Any ideas as to which two disciples were sent?** Probably one was Peter

**V2** – **What were the instructions that Jesus gave them?** Find a colt that was never ridden on  
-Jesus was born of a virgin, and this colt was pure and set apart for holy use

**V3** – **What were they to say if someone objected?** "The Lord has need of it"  
-Probably the colt was owned by a disciple of Jesus

**V4** – **What did the disciples do?** Followed the instructions of Jesus perfectly

**V5** – **What did some of the bystanders say?** "What are you doing?"

**V6** – **What did the disciples do?** Just as Jesus told them to do  
-So they got permission to take the colt

**V7** – Jesus was preparing to ride on the colt into Jerusalem  
-**Why?** To fulfill prophecy – **Read Zechariah 9.9**  
-Also, to show that his messiahship was not as the world pictured it  
-In other words, he did not come with his armies and chariots and soldiers and weapons, but riding on an innocent donkey  
-**What was used for a saddle?** Some of the garments of the disciples

**V8** – **What did people along the road do as Jesus prepared to enter Jerusalem?** Put their garments down on the road (to keep the dust down and as a sign of their respect for Jesus)  
-**What else was put down on the road?** Palm branches that they had cut

**V9** – **What were the people crying out as Jesus passed?** Hosanna (literally: "Save now")  
**Read Psalm 118.25-26**

**V10** – **What else did the people say about Jesus?** He would begin the kingdom of God  
-**What did these statements indicate?** The people thought that Jesus was the Messiah

**V11** – **Where did Jesus go first when he entered Jerusalem?** Into the temple (no fear on his part)  
-**Where did he go next?** To Bethany (where he and the 12 apostles were staying)  
-So this was the triumphal entry into Jerusalem (it all took place on Sunday)

## **Mark 11.12-14**

**V12** – **On Monday morning, what did Jesus do?** Left Bethany  
-**What was his condition?** Hungry

**V 13** – **What did he see?** A fig tree "in leaf"

-**What did he find out about the tree?** It had nothing but leaves (no fruit), because it was not the season for figs

**V 14** – **What did Jesus do about the tree?** Cursed it

-A very strange verse: cursing an innocent little tree, just because it didn't have any fruit on it (wait until v 20-26 for the explanation)

## **Mark 11.15-19** (still on Monday)

**V 15** – **Where did Jesus go when he got into Jerusalem?** Into the temple

-**What did he do there?** Cast out the money-changers

-**Thought question: Why had Jesus gone into the temple on Sunday?** To look around, assess the situation; he waited until Monday to take action

-In other words, he did not lose his temper here - this was not an uncontrolled outburst of anger

-The money changers were there to exchange foreign currency into local currency

-Their profit was about 15%, and also the price of the animals for sacrifice was way too high

-The abuse was so bad that in 67 A.D., the people totally destroyed the money-changers and their tables in the temple

**V 16** – Jesus stopped all such traffic in the temple

**V 17** – Jesus quoted from: **Read Isaiah 56.6-7** – all people (even the Gentiles) would come into the temple of the Lord

-The temple was not to be a "bank" or a currency exchange

**V 18** – **What was the reaction of the temple leaders?** When you take someone's money away, you can expect persecution – they wanted to kill Jesus

-**Why didn't they kill him right then?** Because of the respect the crowds had for Jesus

**V 19** – The end of the Monday before the crucifixion

## **Mark 11.20-26**

**V 20** – **What did they see the next morning?** The fig tree had withered (from the roots up)

-**Why "from the roots up"?** Not just withered from the heat of the day, insects, etc.

**V 21** – **Who questioned Jesus about the fig tree?** Peter assessed the situation

**V 22** – **What was the reply of Jesus?** Have faith in God

**V 23** – **What was the lesson that Jesus wanted them to learn?** They could do all things with enough faith – See note on v 26 below

-They could even move a mountain

**V 24** – **What did Jesus say about prayer?** We will receive what we ask for in faith

**V 25** – **What else would an answer to our prayers be based on?** Have we forgiven others?  
-Where else have we seen that instruction? *Matthew 6.12* in "Lord's prayer"

**V 26** – **What will happen if we have not forgiven others?** We will not be forgiven  
-**What was the purpose of the withering of the fig tree?** To show the power of God, but also as a visual demonstration concerning what was going to happen to Jerusalem  
-It would also be withered just as the fig tree was  
-Also, this passage teaches us that all things are possible through prayer

**Mark 11.27-33** (still on Tuesday of the last week)

**V 27** – **Who approached Jesus to attack him?** Chief priests, scribes, elders

**V 28** – **What were they upset about?** Where was his authority for doing these things (chasing out the money-changers, etc.)?  
-They were trying to trap him: If he claimed to be God, they could charge him with blasphemy  
-If he claimed to be king, the Roman government would charge him with treason  
-If he did not claim any authority, then they could tell him to get out of Jerusalem

**V 29** – **What was his reply?** He would ask them a question (a favorite practice of Jesus)

**V 30** – **What was his question?** "Was the baptism of John from heaven or from men?"

**V 31** – **What if they said it was from heaven?** Jesus would say, "Why didn't you believe it?"

**V 32** – **If they said it was from man?** Then the crowds would stone them, because they liked John

**V 33** – **What was their official answer?** They did not know (the coward's way out)  
-This is known in debating as putting someone on "the horns of a dilemma" (either choice will condemn a person and destroy his reasoning)

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