

**Valley Bible Church**  
**Sermon Notes for August 27, 2017**

**Mark 11:1-11**  
**The Beginning of the End**

I. Commissioning (11:1-3)

*Now when they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples 2 and said to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. 3 If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.' "*

"Now when they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives,"

- Jesus, the disciples, and a traveling crowd just came from Jericho
- Jerusalem was the goal for the sake of Passover
- They made it to Bethphage and Bethany
  - Located on the Mount of Olives, which was east of Jerusalem
  - These locations were about 1 mile or so east of Jerusalem

"Jesus sent two of his disciples 2 and said to them, 'Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it.'"

- Jesus proceeds to initiate a plan that has certain specifics
  - 2 disciples
  - Specific village ahead of them
  - Untie and take the first colt seen
  - This colt must be one that no one has sat upon for a ride
  - Untie the colt and bring it back

"3 If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.' "

- Jesus' plan is thought through
  - Someone might question the behavior of the disciples in this plan
  - Jesus instructed the disciples to say, "The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately."
    - This was something that people may have understood under a principle called "angaria"
    - This allowed the draft or impressment of animals for service to a significant figure, like a king
- Jesus has embraced what is next in His earthly ministry
- He has planned out the necessary components
- He is ready to go public with His identity and pass the point of no return
- This event proclaiming Him as the King would cause the first domino to fall in a string of events throughout the week that would lead to His crucifixion

## II. Collecting (11:4-6)

*4 And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. 5 And some of those standing there said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" 6 And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go.*

- The events and details of the plan unfold exactly as Jesus said they would
- This continues to highlight Jesus' knowledge of the future and control over all things
- There was no way Jesus' course to the cross was going to be altered
- Jesus had full control over every detail leading up to the moments of His crucifixion

## III. Covering (11:7-8)

*7 And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. 8 And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields.*

- The colt is successfully returned to Jesus
- An interesting scene unfolds
  - Preparations are made before He saddles the colt
  - Cloaks are utilized as a makeshift saddle on the colt
  - Additionally, cloaks are thrown on the road in front of Jesus
  - Leafy branches are also thrown on the ground in front of Jesus as he travels
- What is happening here?
- This was not a sporadic trend that materialized out of nowhere among the Jewish people
- This crowd knew what they were doing
- They were giving Jesus a royal red carpet type of entrance into Jerusalem
- They were treating Jesus like He was their King
  - Cloaks and garments on the ground
  - 2 Kings 9:13 "Then in haste every man of them took his garment and put it under him on the bare steps, and they blew the trumpet and proclaimed, 'Jehu is king.'"
  - Riding on a donkey/colt/mule
  - 1 Kings 1:33-34 "And the king [David] said to them, 'Take with you the servants of your lord and have Solomon my son ride on my own mule, and bring him down to Gihon. 34 And let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet there anoint him king over Israel. Then blow the trumpet and say, 'Long live King Solomon!'"
  - Zechariah 9:9 "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

- This crowd was declaring Jesus as their King, the King of the Jews
- These actions of the crowd were not the only actions showing the people's assessment of Jesus as King

#### IV. Cheering (11:9-10)

*9 And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! 10 Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!"*

"And those who went before and those who followed were shouting..."

- The people's shouting and cheering indicated what they thought about Jesus
- First, they were proclaiming Him as their Messiah

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

- This was a direct quotation from Psalm 118:25-26
- Psalm 118:25-26 "Save us, we pray, O Lord! O Lord, we pray, give us success! 26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! We bless you from the house of the Lord."
- Psalm 118 appears to be a "royal song of thanksgiving for military victory"
- The psalm pictures a victorious leader being welcomed into Jerusalem to rule in Mt. Zion
- The people not only proclaimed Jesus as their Messiah based upon their quotation of Psalm 118
- Second, they were proclaiming His coming Kingdom

"10 Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!"

- As we observed last week, the Messiah was known as the Son or descendant of David
- Now, we are reminded that the Messiah's Kingdom is the fulfillment of the great kingdom that had been promised to David and His offspring (2 Samuel 7)
- Consider how this scene is packed with elements all pointing to Jesus as the Messiah and King of God's people
  - Riding a donkey that no one has ever sat upon
  - People's cloaks and branches are covering the ground as He approaches Jerusalem
  - People are blessing Him as the "one who comes in the name of the Lord"
  - People are proclaiming the coming kingdom of David in Jesus' approach
- Question: How is it possible that Jesus goes to the cross after such a reception by the Jews
  - Consider the crowds (Galilean Jews vs. Jerusalem Jews)
  - Consider the influence of the religious leaders

#### V. Checking (11:11)

*11 And he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple. And when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.*

- Mark ends this account on somewhat of an anticlimactic ending

- Jesus actually entered Jerusalem and went into the temple
- However, all He did was look around and leave because it was already late
  - Why?
  - It is important to note that Jesus did not come to the temple as an amazed tourist as was the case for many out-of-town Jews
  - Jesus does not even come to the temple with a sacrifice to be offered
  - Instead, Jesus comes to check and investigate the temple
  - As we see from what's coming next in Mark, Jesus was scoping out the situation at the temple
  - He was taking assessment of the temple for what He would do the next day in cleansing that very temple
  - Malachi 3:1-2 "Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. 2 But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap."
- He left and returned to Bethany with the 12 because that was where they would be staying all week during the celebration of Passover
  - It was crowded and impossible for everyone to stay in the city of Jerusalem during festivals like Passover
  - Thus they would return to Bethany at the end of each day during the week