

The king has come

Mark 11:1-25

Introduction

At many traditional weddings, the entrance of the bride is a significant part of the wedding ceremony. What do you think the way that the bride enters one the wedding day is trying to communicate?

In Marks chapter 11 the journey to Jerusalem has finally come to an end. Jesus had come to the place where he knew he was going to be delivered over to the chief priests and scribes and condemned and delivered over to the Gentiles who would mock him, flog him, and kill him (10:33). Jesus entry into Jerusalem and what he did when he arrived there were carried out in a particular way to communicate something important about Jesus and what he had come to do. Please read verses 1 to 25 to discover what Jesus did on arriving at Jerusalem.

Entering Jerusalem

As Jesus got closer and came to Bethpage and Bethany, he made some preparations for his big entrance into Jerusalem. Please read verses 1 to 11 to discover what the arrangement were and how people responded to the way he entered the city.

1. What did Jesus send two of his disciples away to do and why do you think he did this (see Zechariah 9:9-10)?

2. What did the people do when they saw Jesus going up on a donkey to Jerusalem and what was significant about this?

3. What did the pilgrims on the road say that indicated that they understood the significance of Jesus riding on a donkey (see also Matt. 21:9-10 & Luke 19:38-39)?

Think about it

The pilgrims were looking forward to the son of David who would bring salvation. What is the salvation that Jesus brings with him (see Mark 10:45) and how might this have been different to what they were expecting?

How is it possible for people to share in this salvation (c.f. Mark 1:15; 8:34-38, 10:13-31)?

Visiting the temple

The second part of this passage has to do with what Jesus found going on in Jerusalem and in particular the Temple. Please read verses 11 to 19 to discover what the Lord thought about what was going on in the temple.

4. What was the reason that Jesus gave for cursing the fig tree and what did this suggest about the health of Jerusalem and its temple?

5. What did Jesus do when he went back the next day to the temple and why would he have done this?

6. What was the Temple meant to be for the nations and what had the leaders in Jerusalem turned it into and why (see Isaiah 56:4-7)?

7. How did the chief priests of the law respond to what Jesus did and taught in the temple and why?

Think about it

What might religion that is all leaves with no fruit look like today?

What do you think prevents people from being fruitful (Mark 4:1-20)?

Fruitful followers

The next morning Peter pointed out the fig tree to Jesus. It had withered and died. Please read verses 22 to 25 where Jesus responded to Peter by pointing out what he and those who were following him were to be like.

8. What does the Lord Jesus say to Peter and why do you think he goes on to speak about prayer and forgiveness?

Think about it

One day like the city of Jerusalem we will all meet the king face to face and will have to stand before him in judgment.

How can we be ready to meet our king?

What does fruitfulness look like for those who are following Jesus? How do we encourage such fruitfulness in our lives?