

**Palm Sunday 2020**

**Mark 11:1-26**

*The Tragedy of the Temple and the Greater Gift of God*

**Main Point:** *When God takes earthly securities away in judgment, He does in order to give His people something even better in its place: the gift of Himself (in Jesus Christ)*

**Questions for Reflection:**

*What pathways is God redirecting in your life?*

*What habits/attitudes/emotional-patterns/false-securities is God renewing in your life?*

*What is God calling you to receive?*

## Mark 11:1-11

- Now when they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.'" <sup>4</sup> And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. <sup>5</sup> And some of those standing there said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" <sup>6</sup> And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. <sup>7</sup> And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. <sup>8</sup> And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. <sup>9</sup> And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! <sup>10</sup> Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!"
- <sup>11</sup> 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.

## The Covenant Story in Nutshell:

- Creation – God creates humanity for fellowship in union with Himself
- Covenant – God renews His fellowship with humanity through making a covenant with Abraham (Israel)
- Temple – God designates a special place for His presence to dwell amongst His people
- Exile – God sends His rebellious people into exile and His presence departs from the Temple
- Temple 2.0/Exile 2.0 – Although the people are brought back to the land and the Temple is rebuilt, a greater “exodus” and “temple” still await God’s people
- Jesus – God sends His own Son to embody and enact His promise to return and dwell forever amongst His renewed people

## 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.

## Mark 11:12-14 - Jesus Curses the Fig Tree

- <sup>12</sup> On the following day, when they came from Bethany, he was hungry. <sup>13</sup> And seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to see if he could find anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. <sup>14</sup> And he said to it, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard it.

## Mark 11:15-19 - Jesus Cleanses the Temple

- <sup>15</sup> And they came to Jerusalem. And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold and those who bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. <sup>16</sup> And he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple. <sup>17</sup> And he was teaching them and saying to them, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations'? But you have made it a den of robbers." <sup>18</sup> And the chief priests and the scribes heard it and were seeking a way to destroy him, for they feared him, because all the crowd was astonished at his teaching. <sup>19</sup> And when evening came they went out of the city.

## Mark 11:20-25 - The Lesson from the Withered Fig Tree

- <sup>20</sup> As they passed by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered away to its roots. <sup>21</sup> And Peter remembered and said to him, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree that you cursed has withered." <sup>22</sup> And Jesus answered them, "Have faith in God. <sup>23</sup> Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him. <sup>24</sup> Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. <sup>25</sup> And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses."

### Jesus's message to His audience:

- *"I'm going to take away your temporal security (temple-judgment) in order to bring you something eternally secure" (Himself-salvation).*

## So what's the Main Point?:

- *When God takes earthly securities away in judgment, He does in order to give His people something even better in its place: the gift of Himself (in Jesus Christ)*

## Application:

*By removing our "mountain of security" from our lives, what is God calling you to...*

- *Redirect*
- *Renew*
- *Receive*

- What pathways is God redirecting in your life?
- What habits/attitudes/emotional-patterns/false-securities is God renewing in your life?
- What is God calling you to receive?

**For such a time as this...*let us pray!***

- God is teaching His church afresh that the kingdom doesn't advance through the machinery and institutions of man, but through the faith and prayers of His people

## E.M. Bounds on Prayer...

- *"What the Church needs today is not more machinery or better, not new organizations or more and novel methods, but people whom the Holy Ghost can use – men and women of prayer, mighty in prayer. The Holy Ghost does not flow through methods, but through [His people]. He does not come on machinery, but on [those who call on His name in faith and prayer]."*
- *"Four things let us ever keep in mind: God hears prayer, God heeds prayer, God answers prayer and God delivers by prayer."*