

MARK 11:1-18

OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE SAY?

1. List the events of this in the order Mark presents them. What does Jesus do in vs.1-18?
2. What instructions does Jesus give his disciples concerning the colt?
3. How do the people respond to Jesus as He rides the colt into town?
4. What are we told in verse 11 that Jesus does? What does He see there (compare with verses 15-18)? What is the response of the different groups of people to Jesus after this event?
5. What about the story of the fig tree doesn't seem to make sense to you?

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN?

1. Read Zechariah 9:9, Numbers 9:12, Deuteronomy 21:3, 1 Samuel 6:7, 2 Kings 9:12. What is the significance of the colt, the fact that Jesus asked for one that had no one had ever sat on, and the people throwing their garments in the road?
2. What does "Hosanna" mean? What is the significance of the Triumphal Entry? How is it different from Jesus previous attitude?
3. Why does Jesus enter the temple?
4. How does the story of the cleansing of the temple and the cursing of the fig tree go together?
5. Why does Jesus curse the fig tree even though it "was not the season for figs"?
6. What is it that made Jesus so angry
7. What is the motivation for the chief priests and scribes to kill Jesus?

APPLICATION: WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN TO ME/US?

1. What kind of picture of Jesus is painted here in chapter 11? (notice how Jesus describes himself in verse 3) How are you responding today to the demanding Jesus who calls you to recognize His Lordship?
2. We see in this section a little of the Jesus who will come again to judge. What in your life would Jesus want to cleanse out of your temple?
3. Jesus curses the fig tree for its lack of fruit. A fig tree's purpose was to grow figs. What is your purpose and are you fulfilling that purpose? When Jesus returns will he find you bearing fruit in accordance with your purpose?

ACTION PLAN

Spend time personally and with others in coming up with an action plan inspired by your study. What in this passage compels you to desire a change, to move to action, to become more like Jesus? It could be a change in thinking, behavior, character. It could be internal or external. It could be personal or relational. Just don't leave studying the Bible as simply an intellectual exercise.