

Mark 11:1-25 - Jesus' Palm Sunday



As they approached Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, He sent two of His disciples, and said to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, on which no one yet has ever sat; untie it and bring it here. "If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' you say, 'The Lord has need of it'; and immediately he will send it back here." They went away and found a colt tied at the door, outside in the street; and they untied it. Some of the bystanders were saying to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" They spoke to them just as Jesus had told them, and they gave them permission.

They brought the colt to Jesus and put their coats on it; and He sat on it. And many spread their coats in the road, and others spread leafy branches which they had cut from the fields. Those who went in front and those who followed were shouting:

"Hosanna! BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD; Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David; Hosanna in the highest!"

Jesus entered Jerusalem and came into the temple; and after looking around at everything, He left for Bethany with the twelve, since it was already late.

On the next day, when they had left Bethany, He became hungry. Seeing at a distance a fig tree in leaf, He went to see if perhaps He would find anything on it; and when He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. He said to it, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again!" And His disciples were listening.

Then they came to Jerusalem. And He entered the temple and began to drive out those who were buying and selling in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who were selling doves; and He would not permit anyone to carry merchandise through the temple. And He began to teach and say 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 ROBBERS' DEN." The chief priests and the scribes heard this, and began seeking how to destroy Him; for they were afraid of Him, for the whole crowd was astonished at His teaching.

When evening came, they would go out of the city. As they were passing by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots up. Being reminded, Peter said to Him, "Rabbi, look, the fig tree which You cursed has withered." And Jesus answered saying to them, "Have faith in God. "Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it will be granted him. "Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray

and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you. "Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you your transgressions. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father who is in heaven forgive your transgressions."

Reflect:

Read the text and notice what grabs your attention. Key words? Ideas?
 Read it again, now what stands out? What do you relate to? What do you disagree with?
 Is there a story from your life it reminds you of?

Think:

"The first part of this passage is what many Bible headings call "the triumphant entry into Jerusalem" But what's so triumphant about it? Jesus doesn't even spend the night there, because it was too late. At Palm Sunday Church services everywhere will have donkeys and kids chanting HOSANNA! Etc. Laying palm leaves and blankets at the feet of the conquering king like a defeated army laying down their weapons. We all know that Jesus did not come as the conquering king he is the servant king. Jesus is involved in street theatre a staged political stunt - Jesus statement is that he is not this king and not bringing this type of kingdom. I think Jesus knew the passage in Zech 9:9 that he was recreating and that it was too late in the day for the next step in his action. Hence the next day he trashes the temple, disrupts trade for the day and teaches in such a way that astonished and provokes the powers to plot to kill him. So let me prompt our conversation in short hand. Symbolism anyone?....Fig tree = temple? Moneychangers = economic injustice, Mountain = temple or controlling systems? So each year do we re-enact in our churches the crowd missing the point of the radical kingdom? A kingdom that will overturn the tables of economic and political injustice through forgiveness" (Age)

Welcome to the conversation

What parts stood out for you, annoyed you or drew you to them?
 What is echoed in your life and experience in this text?
 Has Age lost it? Is this a fair look at the text?
 What are the mountains in our world that we come against?
 What is so powerful about integrity and forgiveness? Where is God in the mix when we are being the change in our world?
 What else would be good to talk about???

Act:

What will you do this Palm Sunday? Will you join the Palm Sunday Peace March?
 What local or personal mountain/fig tree could you tackle through forgiveness and integrity?



