

# BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH

Bible Study April 8, 2020

Pastor White

Mark 11

The 11th Chapter of Mark begins our Lord's journey to His destiny. A journey which we will soon hear Him acknowledge, "To this end was I born, for this cause came I into the world that I should bear witness to the Truth..." Christianity has entitled this week in our Lord's life as "Holy Week". We know, that it only started out Holy! :-) The chapter opens with His Triumphant entry into Jerusalem. On the Jewish calendar it is the festival of the Passover. The commemoration of Israel's deliverance and freedom from Egyptian bondage. This deliverance was highlighted with the passing of the death angel through Egypt killing all first born that were not under covering of

In the text before us, the air is filled with excitement and expectancy! There is singing and dancing going on. The long awaited moment has finally arrived! The King—  
Messiah has finally come to the city as prophesied in the scriptures. However, there are some in the celebration, who are there but really want or don't need to be there. To them, it "doesn't take all that!" (Luke 19:39). Mark moves swiftly to the point. He informs us that when Jesus enters into the city He goes straight into the temple.

Acknowledging the lateness of the hour, Mark says, “He went in, looked around and walked out” (v.11), making his way back to Bethany. I want to begin our study with the following outline:

- I. The Cursing of Fruitlessness
- II. The Cleansing of the Unclean
- III. The Lesson Behind the Lesson
- IV. Questioning Jesus' Authority

## I. The Cursing of FRUITLESSNESS (the Fig Tree) (Vss. 12-15)

A. Mark provides us with somewhat of the day to day events of Jesus. After returning to Bethany for rest, Jesus rises early the next morning and makes His back to Jerusalem. While in route He sees a green fig tree with large leaves in the distance. Leaving too early for breakfast, he stops at the fig tree in hopes of getting figs for the journey. However, when Jesus get up close He discovers that the fig tree is barren and has no figs on it. Disappointed, Jesus curses the fig tree. He says, “May no ever eat fruit from you again!” (v. 14)

B. The Lord's Anticipation and Expectation

C. The Obviously Healthy Green Tree.

1. Location - The Mount of Olives was known for its figs. Jesus knew that the fruit would always appear before the leaves.

D. The Disappointment – “He found nothing but leaves.”

E. Mark's intervention – “For it was not the season for figs.”

F. “The Disciples Heard it.”

1. Why was it necessary for Mark to include this statement?

G. Spiritual Interpretation

1. Symbolism – The tree represents Israel; the Church; a Disciple. The Fig represents the fruit a tree; Israel; Church; Disciple should bear... in any season.

## II. The Cleansing of the Unclean (vss.15-19)

A. Jesus' disappointment; anger; and actions. What was wrong with what He saw? What should He have seen? What was He hoping to see? Is this the case of "another disappointment?"

B. Scripture Reference Isaiah 56:7

C. How much time does Bethlehem (people) give to prayer?  
How much time is given to prayer from your spiritual temple?

(Romans 12)

D. The Robber You Hit Will Holler! (v.18) The plot to kill Him.

### III. The Lesson Behind the Lesson (Cursing of the Fig Tree).

A. “The next morning as they passed by they saw the fig tree withered away to its roots.” (v.20)

B. Peter REMEMBERED something.

1. Jesus' Words... - How was Mark using verse 21 to empower his congregation?

2. Mark's sermon for the day and the Source of Jesus' power--- FAITH AND PRAYER!

#### IV. The Lesson behind the Lesson (Cursing of the Fig Tree).

A. “The next morning as they passed by they saw the fig tree withered away to its roots.” (v.20)

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1. Jesus’ Words... - How was Mark using verse 21 to empower his congregation?

2. Mark’s sermon for the day and the Source of Jesus’ power--- FAITH AND PRAYER!

3. What are the teachings in this teaching moment Mark is attempting to convey to HIS congregation? About: 1) Prayer; Faith; Asking; Believing; Forgiveness.

V. Questioning Jesus' Authority (Vss. 27-33)

A. The Abrupt Intrusion (v.27)

B. The Unprovoked Attack (v.28) By WHAT; By WHO?

C. Jesus' Response in a Question (v.29)

D. The Cleverness of the Scribes and Pharisees' Answer (v  
33)

E. The Even More Cleverness of Jesus Response! (v.33)