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| 1  Mark 11:1-25 Sermon Outline  10/08/23  The Lowly King of the Temple  INTRO:  Familiar passage  -Easter passage/Resurrection  -Palm Sunday  “Triumphal Entry” in Bibles as caption  While true, not what we typically associate with  Think of word “triumph”  -Military connotations  -bloody overthrow  -or bloodless coupes  -History has both occurrences  MAIN POINT:  But Jesus does neither.  He came to be king of their “hearts” | 2  He came to save people from their sins  He came to save “YOU” from your sins  And we will see that today  BODY:  Last week of Lord’s life  Triumphal entry = Monday  Jesus’ death only 4 days later on Friday  Jesus and disciples continue on their journey to Jerusalem and at Bethphage and Bethany, near Mount of Olives  Jesus tells disciples to bring back a donkey (explain it)  “The Lord has need of it” = Jesus has every right to take and use it as Lord of creation  Jesus is sovereign over people’s responses to Him |
| 3  He is orchestrating everything perfectly as OT predicted  Verse 7 disciples bring donkey to Jesus and put garments on it  Verse 8 People recognize Jesus is Davidic king that has come to save them and spread their garments and leafy branches before them  BTW, if you do math, Daniel’s Seventy weeks 69th week lands exactly the week that Christ enters Jerusalem. Remarkable accuracy  But they start shouting  HOSANNA! BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD; BLESED IS THE COMING KINGDOM OF OUR FATHER DAVID; HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST!” quoting Psalm 118  Same account in John we see Jesus fulfills prophecy of Zechariah 9:9 where Davidic king will one day enter Jerusalem riding on a lowly donkey | 4  Why a donkey and not a horse?  -Couple of reasons:  Donkey = royal animal for Israel’s kings  King Solomon rode on one  Rest of nations = horses  Horses = large, intimidating creatures that rode to battle  That is why you see God commanding not to rely on horses or nations that rode them because Israel was to be set apart. They were to rely on Yahweh  Is. 31:1  *“Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help And rely on horses, And trust in chariots because they are many, And in horsemen because they are very mighty, But they do not regard at the Holy One of Israel, nor seek Yahweh!”* |
| 5  Horses tended to make Israel trust in them and not in Yahweh!  -Originally Israel was not to have even a king like  the other nations because Yahweh was to be their  king, but they persisted in it in their desires  Donkeys = not for war but agriculture/hard labor  Thus donkeys = symbol for peace  but horses = symbol for war  Is it any wonder why God would chose a donkey for His kings to ride on and not horses?  Of course, after Davidic dynasty split into Israel and Judah, they started to become like the other nations  It’s pretty remarkable you get significant theology out of horses and donkeys right?  But the people are ecstatic and shouting that Jesus has come to deliver them! | 6  the moment is here…and Jesus enters the temple…and then what does He do?!...  Looks around…and does nothing…He leaves back to Bethany because it’s getting late!  Anticlimactic  Jesus’ actions signifies that presence of God is not in the temple but in Himself.  He is veiled and unrecognized to those who do not hear and do not see.  Matthew, Luke, and John leave out detail that Jesus leaves the temple but Mark leaves in this awkward detail  He’s trying to tell you that crowds misunderstood Jesus’ identity once again and missed fact that He came to suffer and die for their sins and not conquer His enemies  Not only as Son of God, but as Son of Man |
| 7  People are no doubt disappointed  -Jesus didn’t deliver them from Roman oppression  They wanted political military conqueror  Again they didn’t realize that the Messiah would have to come twice to earth. One for salvation from sins, then the second to establish earthly reign  Didn’t realize that Jesus came to bring peace first.  That is the whole reason He rode on a donkey!!!  But there will be a day where He will come riding on a horse for war!  Revelation 19 = He will come as the One who is known as Faithful and True  He will come to judge the earth and give His people rest eternally from her enemies  But until then, Jesus is giving peace from sin | 8  Verse 12 (Tuesday)  Jesus leaves Bethany again and heads toward Jerusalem  It’s been a while since we have seen a Markan sandwich again, but here it is  Remember what the sandwich signifies (explain)  Maybe missing out on breakfast Jesus is hungry and goes to fig tree  He sees leaves, but no fruit  Mark: “It was not the season for figs” 1 month later ripe figs should be there  But Jesus was also right. He wasn’t being irrationally angry here  Hos. 9 and Isa. 28 there should have been unripe figs along with the leaves that could be eaten  He gets angry and curses it and it dies |
| 9  The fig tree was deceptive, it was phony!  But Jesus uses this to create a graphic lesson for His disciples  Jesus does a miracle…not of life…but of death  Matthew: It “instantly” withered/died  Verses 15-18 (read)  Jesus comes into the temple again but this time there is all sorts of commotion  It is a business market full of bleaping sheep, animals, clucking, and the loud voices of those bargaining deals  Temple of God has been corrupted into market of greed and extortion  Chief priests were using religion to their advantage to fill their greedy pockets | 10  This was the Court of the Gentiles  Foreigners from all over the world came to Jerusalem to worship in the temple, to worship Yahweh  We see the purpose of the temple for Gentiles back in 1 Kings 8 when King Solomon dedicates the temple to the Lord  *“Also concerning the foreigner who is not of Your people Israel, when he comes from a far country for Your name’s sake (for they will hear of Your great name and Your mighty hand, and of Your outstretched arm); when he comes and prays toward this house, hear in heaven Your dwelling place, and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to You, in order that all the peoples of the earth may know Your name, to fear You, as do Your people Israel, and that they may know that this house which I have built is called by Your name.”*  But there was corruption all over because even if a foreigner brought a perfect, unblemished lamb, those in the temple can reject it and force them to buy their own lamb |
| 11  They would charge an exorbitant amount for it. It was a scam. They would profit  Furthermore, if they happened to have the wrong currency, they would have to go to “money changers”  The Jews thought that foreign currency was idolatrous because it typically had the face of the emperor of that nation on it  So foreigner had to exchange their currency for Jewish or Tyrian currency for an ungodly price as well  They were nothing but scoundrels, eyes filled with greed  They would force these foreigners to give them no choice but to empty their pockets  It is like movies right?  Food costs more than movie ticket itself  You can’t bring in your own food and drink so forced to buy popcorn and soda will be $20 | 12  Monopoly on food!  But in this case it was much much worse for they were under the guise of religion!  You know I find it ironic that Jewish tax collectors working for the Roman empire were the most hated by their own Jews, but yet these Jews would turn around and do the same thing to Gentiles!  It was a scam, nothing but a hoodwink enterprise  Knowing all of this our Lord lets them have it!  He start flipping tables, pulling out the cushions underneath where people were sitting, flipping chairs!  Even forms John 2:15 cord of whips and starts whipping these guys out of the temple!  Jesus meek and mild… |
| 13  I mean imagine that scene  There was potentially thousands of people all running about and Jesus creates such a commotion that it draws attention of chief priests and scribes.  Fulfilled Ps. 69:9 “Zeal has consumed me for your house”  On top of that, Jesus taught quoting Is. 56:7 (read) and Jer. 7:11  Jesus was infuriated not only because religious leaders turned sacred space into a dirty robber’s den  but because they were literally preventing Gentiles from worshipping Yahweh  They were literally preventing people from being saved!  It was a Gospel issue!  The temple was a big deal, and Gentiles didn’t have a temple in their homeland!! | 14  All the way back in Gen. 12 salvation of Gentiles were included all along in plan of salvation  Israel was to be a light to the nations to draw the nations in to worship Yahweh  But over time they became opposite of what they were to be  Attitude = elitist, exclusive, partial, and even “racist”!  Remember Jonah?  He hated Assyrians and didn’t want Assyrians to be saved  book of Jonah is all about compassion of God  In fact, when Nineveh repented and turned to the Lord Jonah thought God did evil and he became angry! |
| 15  Jonah 4:2-4  “And he prayed to Yahweh and said, *“Ah! O Yahweh, was not this my word to myself while I was still in my own land? Therefore I went ahead to flee to Tarshish, for I knew that You are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, and one who relents concerning evil. So now, O Yahweh, please take my life from me, for death is better to me than life.”*  You know what Jonah said?  He said I would rather die than see these people saved from their sins  Talk about racism, this is true racism!  If the Black Lives Matter movement or these woke churches truly want to point out racism, this is the place to do it. Jonah was truly racist  Is it any wonder that they wanted to destroy Jesus and crowds were stunned?! | 16  Verse 19 Jesus and disciples leave city and head back to their temporary home  End of temple incident, back to figs:  In morning disciples see fig tree withered (they didn’t notice fig tree withered in night)  and Peter sees it and remembers what Jesus said  “Rabbi, look, the fig tree which You cursed withered!”  Read Verses 22-25: “Have faith in God!”  Jesus turns to subject of prayer  Prayer might be a little odd, is it related?  It is when we connect that in light of temple and fig tree  Jesus cursed fig tree because it promised fruit with its leaves but no fruit |
| 17  But fig tree represented temple that appeared religious on outside but no fruit whatsoever  The temple looked clean on the outside but inside were full of dead men’s bones  Full of spiritual death  That’s why Matthew 23 Jesus said “Woe is you, woe is you, woe is you!”  Temple was indicative of Israel’s spiritual health  Court of Gentiles = “bazar of Annas” because Annas the high priest was the organizer  Temple important to understand  Started all the way back in Genesis 22 where Abraham was asked to sacrifice Isaac on Mount Moriah  King David eventually purchased Mount Moriah from Ornan in 1 Chron. 21 which eventually led to building first temple | 18  But as you know Israel sinned and apostatized and God sent Babylon to destroy it and captivity  After captivity they return back to land and rebuild it a second time  -Not as glorious as first time  A couple hundred years pass and Antiochus desecrates and profanes temple. Israel is still rebellious  Then Herod comes along and builds third temple (but it’s an overhaul of current temple)  present day: Jesus alludes to destruction of temple by Romans in 70 AD  Ch. 13 Jesus will explicitly foretell destruction of temple  And this is where prayer part comes in: |
| 19  Though disciples will be without temple  Though temple has been corrupted  Though no longer be place of worship and atonement  The disciples will have full access to worship and God’s presence through prayer  God’s presence will no longer be limited to a building or something physical but in Christ through prayer  Jn. 2:19 Christ referred to His own body that will be torn down and three days later risen up again  Also preparing disciples for when He will no longer be physically with them  In fact prayer will be so powerful that verse 23 (read)  Now don’t mistake this verse to mean it is a license to ask whatever your sinful heart desires whether for riches, wealth, and prosperity as so many heretics do on TV | 20  That’s why we have other Scriptures like James telling you you don’t receive because you ask with wrong motives to spend it on your pleasures  Or like 1 John where if you ask anything according to “His will” not “your” will, God will hear you.  God knows your needs. He knows you need food, clothing, a place to live, etc.  He has promised to provide  But it’s all according to His will, not your will,  His timing, not your timing  His way, not your way  His purpose, not your purpose  His wisdom, not your wisdom  It’s appropriate to ask God to heal someone. If that’s God will to heal that person, He will heal that person  But sometimes, answer is no.  -It’s no because He has something far better planned that you don’t see at moment |
| 21  Jesus is clearly using a figure of speech = hyperbole to stress point  We use that language all the time today right?  “I’m so hungry, I could eat this table”  Literally eat the table? No  Acts 17:6 *“these men who have turned the whole world upside down”*  Literally earth flipped on it’s axis?  Figure of speech saying these Jesus freaks have caused an uproar, a controversy and have unsettled our way of life and religion  Similarly:  Prayer is so powerful it can accomplish seemingly impossible if God does it | 22  Not because anything special in person but because God is doing it, power is in God!  Not saying God can’t move mountains in sea, God can do that if he wishes!  So yes hypothetically ex:  Man who is on journey is blocked by mountain  If it’s God’s will, no matter how absurd or impossible it seems, God will do anything  Jer. 32:27  *“Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh; is there anything too difficult for Me?”*  In fact Jesus adds complimentary verse 24  We are to pray in such a way that we have already received whatever we are asking God for |
| 23  Eph. 1:3  *“blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.”*  We can’t fathom that statement, it is profound!  Christian you have everything you need through prayer  Ps. 84:11  *“No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly”*  Trust that God has already provided everything for you in Christ  He will meet your needs  Maybe you are in need of a car  You pray: “God please provide me a V8 Maserati with 500 HP that can go from 0-60 in 2.3 seconds…  Well God could provide you a Maserati | 24  But He’s likely going to give you a good ole reliable Toyota Corolla  It might have not been what you wanted, but it is what you needed.  Your need for a car maybe legitimate, but your need for a Maserati is probably not legitimate, if not illegitimate  We come to last verse in verse 25 (read)  In order to be effective in God’s kingdom you need to know that you need to forgive if you have anything against a brother  This isn’t talking about salvation but having a clear relationship with God  I love how pastor MacArthur puts it “you are never more like God than when you forgive”  God’s forgiveness is at the heart of the gospel |
| 25  We loved God because God what?  First loved us? 1 John 4:19  We forgive because God forgave us first  If you have not forgiven anyone,  If your life is marked by unforgiveness, holding grudges, being bitter about what people have done to you, holding people’s sins against them, then it is questionable whether you have truly received the forgiveness of God yourself!  That is why Jesus says this jarring statement  “so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you your transgressions”  That’s why Mark 9:50  “have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”  A true disciple forgives others | 26  1 Corin. 13:  love “remembers no wrongs”  Jesus entered Jerusalem as King to be sure, but not king people expected. He came to die for His people  He came to do away with temple not only for its fruitless hypocrisy but because the veil to the holy of holies will torn in two  A new age will dawn when you won’t have to travel to Jerusalem to go for worship and atonement  No longer will you need a high priest to confess your sins to because you have a great high priest who is interceding for you daily!  In the last days, the temple will be rebuilt and be present in the Millennium, not for atonement for sins, but a reminder for sins  because death and sin is still present, although almost gone |
| 27  And there will be no physical temple in eternal state because  Rev. 21:22 “I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple”  If you are here today and you die not having repented of your sins and…you will meet Jesus not on donkey of peace but on a horse of war  Jesus will come one day as Jude 1 says with  *“many thousands of His holy ones, to execute judgment upon all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their ungodly deeds which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.”*  But if you are living and breathing right now, Jesus is coming to you lowly and riding on a donkey  He came to deliver you not from an oppressive corrupt government but from your sins! | 28  Coming to Him is free, it is at no cost because He payed that cost for you  There is no barrier you have to stand behind because He has torn that veil down  Listen to Ephesians 2:13-22  *“But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups one and broke down the dividing wall of the partition by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might create the two into one new man, making peace, and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, having in Himself put to death the enmity. And He came and preached the good news of peace to you who were far away, and peace to those who were near; for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.* |
| 29  *So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone,**in whom the whole building, being joined together, is growing into a holy sanctuary in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.”*  Come to the lowly King of your temple and worship Him  Let’s pray | 30 |