

# Hope Enters



## Mark 11:1-11 (NLT)

<sup>1</sup> As Jesus and his disciples approached Jerusalem, they came to the towns of Bethphage and Bethany on the Mount of Olives. Jesus sent two of them on ahead. <sup>2</sup> “Go into that village over there,” he told them. “As soon as you enter it, you will see a young donkey tied there that no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. <sup>3</sup> If anyone asks, ‘What are you doing?’ just say, ‘The Lord needs it and will return it soon.’”

<sup>4</sup> The two disciples left and found the colt standing in the street, tied outside the front door. <sup>5</sup> As they were untying it, some bystanders demanded, “What are you doing, untying that colt?” <sup>6</sup> They said what Jesus had told them to say, and they were permitted to take it. <sup>7</sup> Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their garments over it, and he sat on it.

<sup>8</sup> Many in the crowd spread their garments on the road ahead of him, and others spread leafy branches they had cut in the fields. <sup>9</sup> Jesus was in the center of the procession, and the people all around him were shouting,

“Praise God!

Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the LORD!

<sup>10</sup> Blessings on the coming Kingdom of our ancestor David!

Praise God in highest heaven!”

<sup>11</sup> So Jesus came to Jerusalem and went into the Temple. After looking around carefully at everything, he left because it was late in the afternoon. Then he returned to Bethany with the twelve disciples.

## Message Notes:

### A. What is happening in this passage?

- Jesus begins the final week of his life before He goes to the cross on our behalf.
- Jesus fulfills messianic prophecy (Ezekiel 43:2-9, Zechariah 9:9, 14:1-19) as He enters Jerusalem from the East, coming over the Mount of Olives while riding upon a donkey's colt.
- The adoring crowds recognize the significance of His arrival in this manner, honoring Him as a conquering King with branches and cloaks laid down in His path.
- Jesus arrives at the Temple, site of God's provision of a perfect sacrifice for Abraham, then retires to Bethany nearby, where Lazarus, Mary, and Martha reside.
- ***How has Jesus been received in the Temple of your heart? Or has He?***

### B. Why is this scene significant to us?

- Jesus affirms His true identity as Messiah (King-High Priest-Savior-Lord).
- Jesus exposes humanity's fickleness and true need as He treads through the crowd's momentary but misplaced celebration.
- Jesus proceeds to the Temple which purports to worship Him, but which will instead be the scene of His torture, demonstrating His resolve to bring true hope to humanity. (Note that Jesus dies outside of the temple where sacrifices were normally brought, extending His grace beyond the Jews to the whole world.)
- ***How can you remember and rejoice this week in Jesus' gracious courage to enter the difficult places in your life?***

### C. My Prayer

*Jesus, thank you for courageously entering Jerusalem when few understood your purpose. Enter into the barren places in my heart, too, Lord. Sweep away false perceptions of what it means to follow you, and replace them with deep and abiding faith. Help me to embrace you and your sacrifice anew. Grant me grace and vision to serve, to love, to witness to your Gospel, to let go of my selfish self-preservation instinct. I look forward to your impending return to judge the living and the dead, and the fulfillment of all that you have promised. To you be all blessings, honor, and praise. In your holy Name, amen.*

### Take-Home or Small Group Study

1. Why makes a Presidential inauguration so enjoyable and exciting for the watching crowd?
2. Where did the events of this story take place? (11:1)
3. What did Jesus ask the disciples to do? (11:2-3)
4. How did the disciples' experience match with what Jesus said? (11:4-7)
5. What does the reaction of the crowd tell us about how they interpreted Jesus' entry into Jerusalem? (11:8-10)
6. Describe a time when you misplaced your trust. How did it affect you?
7. When has God called to you to trust in Him, despite circumstances which seemed unusual or difficult to overcome?
8. Why do you think God does not always reveal His intentions or long-range plans for us when we find ourselves in difficult circumstances? How does God desire us to respond in those situations?

### Helpful Resources

- The Navigators <http://www.navigators.org/Home>
- Our Daily Bread <http://odb.org/>
- Our Daily Bread – Discovery Series online booklets <http://discoveryseries.org/>
- Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Manhattan [www.redeemer.com](http://www.redeemer.com)

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