

Principles Of Spiritual Growth

EASTER 2025

Celebration and Condemnation/Palm Sunday

April 13, 2025

Mark 11

No. 2

How many people like a celebration?

- Birthday
- Anniversary
- Won the game

How many here like a condemnation?

- That was wrong
- Don't do that again
- What were you thinking?

Ha!

We like celebration but we don't like condemnation.

Today is Palm Sunday.

We will see that the celebration was wrought by man but the condemnation was wrought by Christ.

And by the way;

Man was wrong and Christ was right.



Mk 11 It was Sunday.

v.1 *As they *approached Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, He *sent two of His disciples,*

v.2 *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.*

v.3 *"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."*

So they did what Jesus said; they found the colt and, with permission, brought it back to Jesus and Jesus sat on it.

So,

He's riding into Jerusalem and look at what the people are doing.

v.8 *And many spread their coats in the road, and others spread leafy branches which they had cut from the fields.*

v.9 *Those who went in front and those who followed were shouting: "Hosanna! BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD; "Hosanna" exclamation of adoration*

Let God be praised

v.10 *Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David; Hosanna in the highest!"*

They put out the Red Carpet for Jesus.

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It was a celebration!

v.10 BLESSED IS HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD;

"He who comes" a phrase relating to the Messiah

And

"Blessed is the coming kingdom of David"

They saw this as a military victory!

The Roman bullies are going to be removed.

Don't you love it when people who bug you are removed from your life?

Well,

This wasn't the case for them. Jesus was bringing something better; a spiritual victory for their lives.

They were looking for a temporal freedom

Jesus was bringing a spiritual, eternal freedom

So picture the celebration:

- Jesus is riding in and look!
- They're laying down their robes
- Laying down branches off palm trees
- Shouting Hallelujahs

It's a real celebration.

But remember, this celebration is of man.

Now comes the condemnation.

V. 11 *And Jesus entered into Jerusalem, and into the temple (court). And having looked around at all things, the hour already being late, He went out to Bethany with the Twelve.*

He looked around and he didn't like what He saw but it was getting late.

They left for Bethany, perhaps because that is where His friends, Mary, Martha and Lazarus lived.

So Jesus comes back to Jerusalem the next day and goes back into the Temple court; Actually the Court of the Gentiles.



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This took place in the Court of the Gentiles.

v.15 *And they come to Jerusalem: and he entered into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold and them that bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the money-changers, and the seats of them that sold the doves;*

v.16 *and he would not suffer that any man should carry a vessel through the temple.*

Ie.

Nothing could be brought in to be bought or sold.

- The Temple Court had become a market rather than a place of worship.
- bleating of sheep and goats
- clanging of coins
- voices of the money-changers

Probably more like Fenway Park than worship.

One man said;

"They made merchandise of holy things."

I believe the spirit of who and what we are is greater than what we may sacrifice.

I wonder if the modern church today has drifted back into what that court was like then.

The trappings have superseded the message.

The emotion has superseded true worship.

Congregational singing has morphed into congregational observance.

I have to ask myself, "Is that church?"

To Jesus,

All this hype was not what He had in mind when He said, "I will build My church."

Church is a matter of the heart.

It is not in the outward show of things but the inward cry of the heart.

So many people have been distracted from the true church by external things but Jesus came for the hungry heart.

The condemnation!

v.17 *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."*

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They were selling sacrifices to travelers, pilgrims who came to Jerusalem for the Passover Celebration.

The outer court, the Court of the Gentiles was a place all could gather, Jews and Gentiles alike. But Gentiles could go no further.

It was a place to prepare your heart to enter the next court toward God's place in the Holy of Holies in the Temple building.

But the court had become secularized and it lost its sanctity.

Now,

It was a place of merchandise rather than contemplation.

v.18 *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.*

Sadly;

Even the religious leaders missed the point of who Jesus was.

In closing:

Let's note three things we can learn about this scene:

1. The pilgrims to Jerusalem were being exploited by their religious leaders.

One man said; (Barclay)

"Man's exploitation of man always provokes the wrath of God, and doubly when it is made under the cloak of religion.

2. A relationship with Christ is a matter of the heart, not a matter of merchandise or sacrifice.

3. No one needs to be left out.

'MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL THE NATIONS'.

Today is Palm Sunday.

We celebrate, not Jesus riding into Jerusalem to defeat the Romans but Jesus riding into Jerusalem to die for the sins of all mankind.

John the Baptist called Him, "The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."

Peter said; "Christ died for sin, once for all."

Apostle John said; "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.

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This is why we celebrate Palm Sunday.