

PRAISE THE LORD!

Sunday, September 17, 2023 – GOSPEL OF MARK series – Msg 50 – Pastor Ben Nistor

Mark 11:1–11; cf. Matthew 21:1–11; Luke 19:29–38; John 12:12–19

English Standard Version (ESV)

1 Now when they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples **2** and said to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. **3** If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.’” **4** And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. **5** And some of those standing there said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” **6** And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. **7** And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. **8** And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. **9** And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! **10** Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!” **11** And he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple. And when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

A KEY VERB OF MARK 11:1–11

11 And he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple. And when he had **looked around at everything**, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

περιβλέπομαι -- a compound word from “peri,” which means “around” and “blepo,” which means “to gaze or look.”

- Mark 3:5** *5 And he **looked around at them** with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, and said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He stretched it out, and his hand was restored.*
- Mark 3:34** *34 And **looking about at those who sat around him**, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! 35 For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother.”*
- Mark 5:27–32** *27 She had heard the reports about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment. 28 For she said, “If I touch even his garments, I will be made well...” 30 And Jesus, perceiving in himself that power had gone out from him, immediately turned about in the crowd and said, “Who touched my garments?” ... 32 And he **looked around to see who had done it**.*
- Mark 10:23–27** *23 And Jesus **looked around** and said to his disciples, “How difficult it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!”... 26 And they were exceedingly astonished, and said to him, “Then who can be saved?” 27 Jesus looked at them and said, “With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God.”*
- Mark 11:11** *And when he had **looked around at everything**, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.*

SEVEN REASONS TO PRAISE JESUS

- 1) Praise Jesus because He was willing to go to Jerusalem for YOU. vs 1 and 11
1 Now when **they drew near to Jerusalem**
11 And **he entered Jerusalem**

Jerusalem represents the final stage of Jesus’s earthly ministry. By going to Jerusalem, Jesus willingly lays down His life to save sinners. Jesus wants to redeem you.

2) Praise Jesus because He always directs us perfectly. vs 2–6

Jesus directing:

2 “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. **3** If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.’”

The disciples following:

4 And they went away and **found** a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. **5** And some of **those standing there said to them**, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” **6** And they told them what **Jesus had said**, and they let them go.

Luke 19:32

32 So those who were sent went away and found it **just as he had told them**.

Jesus’s perfect direction is something we should expect in our lives. Jesus wants us to obey Him in all things.

3) Praise Jesus because He is GOD! vs 3 and 9

3 If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The **Lord** has need of it and will send it back here immediately.’”

9 And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, “**Hosanna!** Blessed is he who comes in the name of the **LORD!**”

Psalm 118:25–27 (A ‘hallel,’ or praise Psalm commonly recited during the Passover feast)

25 Save us, we pray, O LORD!

O Lord, we pray, give us success!

26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!

We bless you from the house of the LORD.

27 The LORD is God,

and he has made his light to shine upon us.

Bind the festal sacrifice with cords,

up to the horns of the altar!

Mark’s allusion to Psalm 118 and Jesus statements are direct statements of His divine nature. Jesus wants us to believe that He is God.

4) Praise Jesus because He went into the Temple. vs 11

11 And he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple

Malachi 3:1–4

“Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. 2 But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap. 3 He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord. 4 Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.”

By going into the Temple, Jesus is willing to refine, purify, and make righteous the offerings of His people. Jesus wants to refine and purify us so that our offerings will be pure and righteous.

- 5) Praise Jesus because He is King. vs 7–8 and 10 (see also Mark 15:2, 9, 12, 18, 26)
7 And they brought the colt to Jesus and **threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it.** **8** And **many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields.**

10 Blessed is **the coming kingdom of our father David!** Hosanna in the highest!”
 Jesus’s kingship

Jesus’s kingdom is not what we expect. He came to fight and win the war on sin and death, not reestablish Jerusalem as the center of Israel’s identity. Jesus wants to reign over our lives.

- 6) Praise Jesus because He rode the donkey. vs 7
7 And they brought the **colt** to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it.

colt = a young horse or donkey

In this context, it is referring to a young male donkey (see Matthew 21:2; John 12:14)

By entering Jerusalem on a donkey, Jesus is communicating His attributes. Jesus wants us to worship Him for these qualities.

Zechariah 9:9–10

9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
 Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!

Zion = the mountain of Jerusalem

Behold, **your king is coming to you;**
righteous and having salvation is he,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
 on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Jesus is RIGHTEOUS Jesus is the DELIVERER
 Jesus is HUMBLE Jesus is PEACEFUL

10 I will cut off the **chariot** from Ephraim
 and the war **horse** from Jerusalem;
 and the battle bow shall be cut off,
 and **he shall speak peace to the nations;**
his rule shall be from sea to sea,
 and from the River to the ends of the earth.

Psalm 20:7, “Some trust in **chariots** and some in **horses**, but we trust in the name of the **LORD our God.**”

- 7) Praise Jesus because He’ll ride the white horse. Revelation 19:11–16
11 Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called **Faithful and True,** and in **righteousness he judges and makes war.** **12** His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and **he has a name written that no one knows but himself.** **13** He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is **The Word of God.** **14** And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. **15** From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to **strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.** **16** On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written,

King of kings and Lord of lords.

By appearing on a white horse, Jesus ultimately intends to right the wrongs of our fallen world. Jesus wants us to hope in His sovereign rule and final verdict. Jesus will settle all matters when He returns.