

THE KING'S CROSS

The story of Jesus' final journey into Jerusalem, His confrontation with the people of Jerusalem and the authorities there, and his consequent trial and crucifixion is one of the most compelling historical narratives ever told. In these final chapters in Mark's gospel a massive crowd goes from celebrating Jesus' as their messiah to calling for his death within the week. We see the culmination of Jesus' ministry and the unveiling of His identity while He achieves His ends in an absolutely unthinkable way: The cross.

STUDY GUIDE

MARK 11:1-25

Jesus rides into Jerusalem surrounded by a crowd of supporters, putting into vivid visual relief what God had promised through the prophets (notably Zechariah.) God was returning to Jerusalem through His promised King. This was what James and John and the other disciples had hoped for and anticipated for the three previous years. Finally God would restore the fortunes and freedom of Israel. Finally God would return to Zion, punishing His enemies and exalting His people.

What happened next will leave the disciples, and indeed the whole city, in shock. Jesus puts himself above the traditions, the agendas, even the temple itself. He claims a place almost no one is prepared for.

He will not be co-opted into anyone else's agenda. He will not be leveraged through religious or cultural traditions. He comes as King, laying claim on all people and every square inch of the universe. Here we discover no meek and mild Jesus patiently pleading with us to get it. We see the wild and sovereign Lord demanding allegiance, putting away niceties, and calling everyone to repent and believe in Him.

So let us turn to this wild and fierce Jesus. This one who leaves no room for middle ground. Let us worship this Jesus, trust Him and refuse to look to anything else as Lord and King and Savior.

Read MARK 11:1-25 aloud together.

- 1) Did anything from the passage / sermon stick out to you – something you liked, disagreed with or didn't understand? Try to summarize the main idea of the passage / sermon.
- 2) Are there any "religious or cultural traditions" you tend to hold on to even though they may not line up with the Jesus we see in the last few chapters of Mark?
- 3) What does the fig tree represent? Why does Jesus curse it?

This would be a good time to break into smaller groups of guys & girls. After working through the question take some time to pray for each member of your group.

- 4) *Exercise Questions:* What things (besides Jesus) are you still seeking to find fulfillment and righteousness in?
- 5) Is God bearing fruit in you and through your life? What could you do to see more fruit.

This study guide is intended to be used within your Gospel Community and for personal study throughout the week. All sermons and study guides can be downloaded from our website at www.parkchurchdenver.org