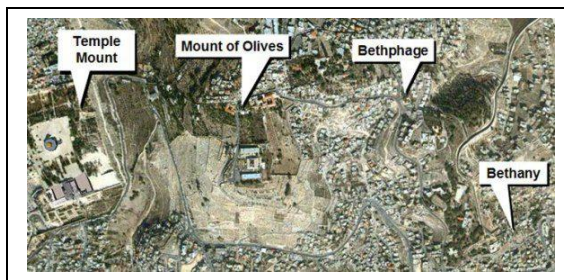


Set the Stage



Prophetic Fulfillment: Triumphal Entry

- Pinnacle of acceptance of Jesus' ministry
- 10th day of Nissan (Sunday), 4 days before crucifixion
- We celebrate this as Palm Sunday
- Hosanna = "save us"

Read **Zechariah 9:9**

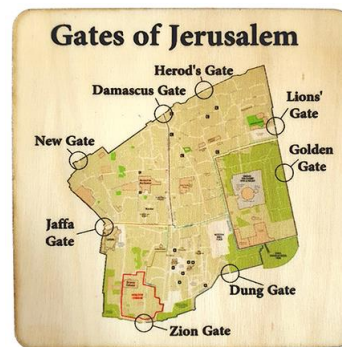
- Jesus' disciples usually took care of details; here Jesus supervised so that His entry precisely matched the prophecies.
- People acknowledged Jesus as King, but stopped short of "Messiah"
- His entry contrasted with Roman victory parades:

Romans	Jesus
Prancing war horse	Rode a donkey (symbol of peace)
Legion of victorious warriors	12 rough-cut fishermen
Captives, slaves & booty	Enthusiastic crowd of healed & saved people

- Jesus' message: He comes in peace, not for war

Jesus went to the temple and looked around. It was late so He and His disciples went back to Bethany (~2 miles southeast of Jerusalem; home of Lazarus and his sisters Martha & Mary).

Golden, or Eastern, Gate dates to 7th century BC, sealed in 1541 by Ottoman Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent to prevent Christ from re-entering Jerusalem.



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Ezekial 44:2

The Cursed Fig Tree

Jesus sees a fig bush with mature leaves and, apparently, He expected it to have fruit in Mark 11:12-14.

Mark states that it was not yet the season for figs.

Figs in the OT symbolized the fruit of spiritual fulfillment.

Some scholars doubt that this actually occurred. They suggest that it was invented to demonstrate that Israel may appear to be mature, but it is not bearing the fruit it is supposed to.

*When I would gather them, says the Lord,
there are no grapes on the vine,
nor figs on the fig tree;
even the leaves are withered,
and what I gave them has passed away from them. – Jeremiah 8:13*

Jesus barely acknowledges Peter's comment, and turns to a positive description of the power of God, prayer, and forgiveness in Mark 11:22-26.

John 14:12-14

James gives an example of asking in faith in James 1:5-6.

Second Cleansing of the Temple

- Travelers coming to the Temple could not easily bring the necessary sacrificial animals with them.
- Vendors had ritually clean and unblemished animals for sacrifice (might take one in trade, then sell the traded animal to the next customer)
- Jewish law required the Temple tax be paid in a specific half-shekel coin that customers could buy at a mark-up.
- It was a bazaar that made Temple entry expensive for all and difficult for foreigners.
- First cleansing is in John 2:13-17, shortly after the water-to-wine miracle at wedding in Cana.
- When Jesus first entered Jerusalem, it was late – merchants and moneychangers had already left for the day. But, Jesus was coming back!

- Jesus was incensed with righteous indignation:
*for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.* - Isaiah 56:7b
- Jesus blamed the chief priests and the scribes for this corruption.
- Even the courtyard was used as a shortcut for business traffic.

Challenge to Christ's Authority

As Dr. Spangler pointed out last week, the chief priests and scribes kept trying to develop a good “Got’cha!” question to trip up Jesus and make Him a laughingstock. They thought they had a really good one in Mark 11:27-28.

They know that Jesus was not ordained by the chief priests, nor studied like the Sanhedrin, nor was He from a priestly family.¹ If Jesus claims that His authority is from God, then they could charge him with blasphemy. If He claims a secular authority for cleansing the Temple, then they can get Him for insurrection. But, Jesus turned it around on them. Read **Mark 11:29-33**.

The accusers plead the 5th.

Summary of the Week

- 10th day of Nissan (Sunday)
 - Triumphal entry into Jerusalem
- 11th day of Nissan (Monday)
 - Cursing the fig tree
 - Cleansing the Temple
- 12th day of Nissan (Tuesday)
 - Jesus was anointed by an unknown woman while at supper in home of Simon the leper
- 14th day of Nissan (Thursday)
 - Passover with Disciples
 - Nighttime capture on Mount of Olives
 - Overnight trials
- 15th day of Nissan (Friday)
 - Crucifixion
 - Jesus’ body was taken down so that it was not on the cross for Sabbath
- 17th day of Nissan (Sunday)
 - Risen Lord

¹ McKenna, Mastering the New Testament, p. 237

Summary:

Jesus demonstrated His position:

Triumphal entry into Jerusalem	Lord of the People
Fig bush was another example	Lord of Nature
Cleansing the Temple	Lord of the Church
Fulfillment of OT prophecies	Lord of the Word

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