

The Passion Parable
April 1, 2007
Mark 11:1-10
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Synopsis:

Today I invite you to become part of a drama, a story in which you have a major role. The drama starts today and ends next Sunday. It is a drama that is larger than you; so you may wander off before your character comes on stage. But please don't. It is also a drama that includes you; your character will appear. So pay attention, because the drama is critical to your well-being.

I.

Whose Story is Holy Week?

Mark 11:1 "When they were approaching Jerusalem"

Walking into a Drama/Late to a Movie:

- Significant story, but what's happening?
- You've entered the last act

The Story into Which We've Walked:

Jesus's Worldview: 1st Century Palestine

Monotheism = one god, political (your god is idol)

Election = Israel is chosen to bless nations; what happens through and to them has universal significance (Gen 12, Isa 56)

Exile = Yahweh judges Israel for failing her election

Election stalled = Exile still in place

(Persia, Greece, Rome)

End = story has an end when things will be made

right, when Yahweh defeats enemies and rules

Jesus' Message in Word and Action: Rule of Yahweh is Here

Word

Exile is over (Mark 1 kingdom of God)

Evil will be defeated (real enemy behind Rome/Israel)

Yahweh return to Jerusalem, nations will be blessed
Action: Heal, wonders, signs, symbols

*John's question to Jesus: "Are you the one?"
This is the drama, into which we've walked.

II.

The Palm Story

Mark 11:8 "Others spread leafy branches"

The story of Palm/Passion Sunday in the drama: Parable/Symbol

Colt = royalty to ride in putting an end to exile (Zech 9)

Garments = spread out for a king (2Kgs 9 Jehu)

Leafy branches = Judas Maccabeus (2Macc 10)

Mount of Olives = Messiah would judge on Day of Lord
(Zech 14)

Kingdom of David = Messiah comes to restore rule

Ps 118 = Entrance liturgy to temple (Passover, Tabernacles)

Temple = *Branch* shall build it (Zech 6)

Yahweh is returning in Jesus to Jerusalem to end exile

Sounds good? Yeah Jesus!

Temple: This is what gets Jesus killed

-Rebuilt in 515 BC to be symbol of Yahweh's rule

-Supposed to be a House of Prayer for all nations (Isa 56)

-Become the center of the problem (not for all, corrupt, Jer 7)

-Jews expected Jesus to throw out Rome (the problem)

-He comes and judges Temple (shocks them)p

-Rome burns the temple in 70AD to fulfill Jesus' actions

*Jesus is the temple, takes upon himself the judgment of Israel, defeating evil, in order that Yahweh may rule and nations may be blessed. This is the Palm/Passion story.

III.

This is Your Story

Mark 11:8 "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes"

Hosanna = *hoshia nah* (Save us, now!)
Psalm 118 Entrance liturgy for a victorious ruler

We've all walked in to a drama
Need to find our part in the story
You are the nations which Jesus means to bless

I invite you into a story, in which you can experience defeat of evil and
blessing of salvation.

Kenny Greenman this week, his story is Jesus' story

What's your story?
I invite you to find your story in Jesus' story