

Return of the King
Palm Sunday – March 16
Mark 11:1-11
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Synopsis:

Today begins the great drama of Holy Week. Jesus enters Jerusalem in a living parable as the returning King to cleanse the temple, defeat evil, and set up the Kingdom of God.

I invite you into this drama, which is not just the story of Jesus. It is our story.

I.

Vantage Point: Getting a Point of View

Mark 11:1 “When they were approaching Jerusalem at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives”

Vantage Point Movie: website

-hottest new movie on attempted assassination of president
website: push enter; here’s what you see

1. “Eight strangers, each with a different point of view, each with a vantage point.”
2. Picture of the plaza where the president is shot
3. “What’s your point of view?”
“What’s your vantage point?”
4. Then you move the mouse around the plaza and gain a different vantage point

View from Bethphage/Bethany/Mt of Olives

-great drama this week
-pay attention, move the mouse around

Take a point of view
Gain a vantage point,
Get involved in the drama.

II.

Vantage Point: Jesus' Point of View

Mark 11:1-2 "Jesus sent two of his disciples and said to them"

Move the mouse to Jesus

Key questions today:

1. What's Jesus up to?
2. How can we get involved?

What's Jesus up to?

-Preview: READ Mark 1:14-15

*Jesus is up to the Kingdom of God

He knows the final act of the drama:

- Cleanse temple
- Defeat evil
- Set up Kingdom

Symbols to signal:

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

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

Leafy branches = Simon/Judas Maccabeus

(1 Macc 13; 2Macc 10) 2nd cen BC

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

Kingdom of David = Messiah comes to restore rule (exile)

Ps 118 = Entrance liturgy to temple after battle

(*Hallel*: Passover, Tabernacles)

Temple = God will destroy (Jer 7)

Branch shall build it (Zech 6)

Jesus is the Yahweh the King returning to Jerusalem

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)

-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 what Jesus is up to: his vantage point

Cleanse the temple

Defeat evil

Set up the Kingdom

III.

Vantage Point: Our Point of View

Mark 11:9 "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!"

Move the mouse to us

"Eight strangers, each with a different point of view, each with a vantage point."

Questions:

1. What Jesus is up to.
2. How can we get involved?

Hosanna:

Psalm 118

Entrance liturgy after victory

Palms associated with Tabernacles

Palms associated with Maccabeus

Palms with Jesus

Hosanna = Ho-she-a nah (Save us-now!)

Jesus is saving us:

Do you want your temple cleansed?

E.g. Is your house a mess?

Do you want evil defeated around you and in your life?

E.g. Is your life and those around you a mess?

Do you want a new Kingdom in your life?

E.g. Do you want a new life?

This week:

Get a vantage point
Move the mouse around
Pay attention

Jesus is up to,
-cleansing our temple
-defeating our evil
-setting up the Kingdom here
Your invited to be part of the drama!