



The Triumphal Entry
The Greatest
Commandment

11
Mark
12

Day

1

1. Read Mark 11 and 12 before starting this study guide. Pray asking the Lord to bless your time in his word. Use a good Bible map to locate some of the places Jesus has been. Galilee, Capernaum, the Sea of Galilee, Decapolis, Samaria, Jericho, and now he has come to the city of Bethphage near Bethany. Both Bethphage and Bethany were close to Jerusalem.
2. As Jesus and the disciples got near Bethphage he gave two of them an assignment. What did Jesus tell them to find and bring back to him?
3. When the disciples returned many people were with Jesus as was often the case. The disciples threw their cloaks on the donkey and Jesus sat on it. The people began laying their cloaks on the road in front of the donkey as a sign of honor. What did the people shout as Jesus made his way up and into the city of Jerusalem?
4. The word "Hosanna" is an exclamation of praise to God. This is often referred to as Jesus triumphant ride into Jerusalem. Read Matthew 21:1-11, Luke 19:28-44, and John 12:12-19.
 - Matthew 21:1-11, tells why this event happened as it did. What was the reason?
 - Luke 19:28-44 tells us that the Pharisees objected to the words of the crowd that day and tried to get Jesus to make them stop. What did Jesus tell these unbelieving Pharisees would happen if the people were stopped?
5. Did you see the emotion Jesus experienced as he rode into Jerusalem that day? Luke 19:41, with all this rejoicing by the people, why do you believe Jesus was weeping?
6. Have you ever looked at your city and wept over the spiritual blindness there? Are you a part of the problem or a part of the solution?

Only when we choose to love Jesus by serving others, we will be a part of the solution. Are you sharing the good news with those around you? What are a few ways you could share the gospel, that life giving message of hope in Christ with someone today?

7. According to John 12:12-19, when did the disciples come to an understanding of these events?
8. What event helped the disciples put all the pieces together? What was their turning point of understanding? Read John 12:16

Day

2

9. Because it had been late in the day when Jesus came into Jerusalem, he did not stay long at the temple but then went back to Bethany to stay the night. Bethany is only about 2 miles from Jerusalem. There is an interesting story recorded in Mark 11:12-14. Jesus gets up the next morning to return to Jerusalem and sees a fig tree with leaves, which normally indicates there probably will be fruit too. When there was no fruit, what did Jesus do?
10. Jesus came to the temple that day, what did he see that upset him very much?

11. What did Jesus do that caused such commotion?
12. People who traveled long distances often used the money changers to purchase an animal for a sacrifice or exchange currency for an offering. Mark 11:17, Jesus said the temple was intended to be a _____.

But he said they had made it a _____.

13. Please do not rush by this question. Jesus clearly spoke as to what the house of God should be. We must pause long enough to consider carefully if our house of worship fits his description. What do you believe Jesus meant when he said, "My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations"?
14. As was often the case the disciples did not understand all that Jesus said and did. The next day as they passed by the fig tree Jesus had cursed, what did they see?
15. By what authority did Jesus curse the fig tree?

According to Mark 11:23, what authority do believers have in this world?

What mountain would you like to see moved?

Would a spiritual awakening in your city be high on your list of mountains to be moved?

What are you believing God for today?

My pastor, Craig Groeschel said, "What you pray for reflects what you believe about God."

16. This cursed fig tree was a picture of God's judgment for those who look like they are spiritual and yet bear none of the fruits of God's spirit. Read Galatians 5:22, have you ever known someone who professed to be spiritual and yet did not bear the fruit which serves as proof?

Day

3

17. The Pharisees came looking for Jesus. They wanted to trap him with their questions. There is a boxing term that describes very well their foolish behavior. It is called "punching above your weight." It means you have chosen an opponent who far outweighs you. They do not realize they are "punching above their weight." When they found Jesus, they began demanding an explanation as to his authority. Jesus was not intimidated by their harsh words and arrogant attitude. He had a question of his own. Why did the Pharisees not want to answer Jesus simple question?

18. Mark 12 begins with a parable. A parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. It is a simple story using something real from life or nature to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson. With that definition in mind, look at Mark 12:1-12. Jesus told a story of a man who planted a _____.
- He put a _____ around it, dug a pit for the _____ and built a _____.
- And leased it to _____.

19. Who do you believe is the landowner in this parable?

Israel is often referred to as God's vineyard. Those listening would have understood this reference. The tenants would have been the religious leaders left to care for God's vineyard. Who do you believe were the servants sent by the master?

Who is the son in this parable a reference to?

20. The treatment of these servants was disgraceful. They were simply obeying the master's order. How were the servants treated?

- a. Servant #1
- b. Servant #2
- c. Servant #3 (and several others)
- d. Beloved son

21. Jesus is the stone the builders rejected. The prophets had spoken of Messiah, the people knew the prophecies. According to Mark 12:12 what were the religious leaders looking for an opportunity to do?

What kept them from carrying out their plan?

22. The chief priests, teachers of the law, and elders have finally left but the problem is not over. The Pharisees (religious leaders of the day) and Herodians (Jewish political group who agreed with and supported Herod) come to Jesus with a question for Jesus. They pose a question to Jesus about paying taxes. Notice their words, "_____, we know that you are a man of _____. You aren't swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are; but you teach _____ in accordance with the _____. Is it _____ the imperial tax to Caesar or not?"

23. Jesus is fully aware of their hypocrisy. They feign to be interested in Jesus' thoughts; but what are their real motives?

What do you believe Jesus wanted them to see by pointing to the inscription on the coin?

Do you believe God will equip us with this kind of wisdom when we are in a difficult situation? (See Mark 13:11)

The creator is the one who decides what image his creation will bear. We bear the image of our God and creator.

Day 4

24. The Sadducees arrive next, what is the first interesting fact that is mentioned describing the Sadducees in verse 18? Keep this fact in mind as you answer the next few questions.

25. They presented such a far-fetched riddle, one must wonder about their motives. Write out briefly the points of this complicated scenario (riddle) they presented to Jesus.

26. Jesus very clearly points out their error. What does Jesus say these Sadducees do not understand?

27. A Rabbi, a teacher of the law, heard the discussion that day and heard Jesus' answer. He was impressed, it was a very good answer to a complicated question. He had a very good question for Jesus, "What is the most important of all commandments?" What did Jesus give as his answer?
- a.
 - b.
28. The man complimented Jesus on his answer. He agreed that men and women should love God with their whole heart and strength. They should love and treat others as they themselves want to be treated. What did Jesus say about this man after this brief conversation?
29. My dad used to say, "Close only counts in hand grenades and horseshoes." Is close good enough when it comes to our relationship with God? Is it enough to simply know the truth?
30. Do you know someone you believe recognizes the sovereignty of God, and yet they have not responded with a humble heart to salvation? They appreciate the importance of loving God. But they have not asked Jesus to forgive their sins and give them eternal life. They may be a lovely person but not a believer. What part might you play in their coming to know Jesus personally?

Day 5

31. Jesus was in the temple teaching, using Psalm 110:1. He wanted to help them understand that Messiah would be of the line of David just as the prophet had said. When their Messiah comes one of the signs would be that he was of the line of David. Then he gives the people a clear warning in Mark 12:38-40. What was the warning?
32. After teaching in the temple for a long period of time Jesus walks out and sits near the treasury where people deposited their offerings. What was the beautiful example of extravagant generosity and giving that Jesus pointed out that day?
33. What did this widow lady give?
34. As you read the story of the precious widow lady, were you challenged in your giving?

Do you think this widow lady had anything to worry about?

Is it possible to out give God?

35. One of Life Church's core values is generous giving. They often remind our church family that we will lead the way in irrational giving. Could you be described as an irrational giver?

Someone might say, "I am a tither" and that is good. But the truth is that just means you are not stealing from God. Read Malachi 3:8-10, who does the tithe belong to, what are the blessings of carefully and correctly tithing?

36. One last look at giving. Read 2 Corinthians 9, make a list in the margin of all the things you learn about giving from this chapter. This is the NIV translation, but you might also read it in The Message translation.
2 Corinthians 9 NIV

1. There is no need for me to write to you about this service to the Lord's people.
2. For I know your eagerness to help, and I have been boasting about it to the Macedonians, telling them that since last year you in Achaia were ready to give; and your enthusiasm has stirred most of them to action.
3. But I am sending the brothers in order that our boasting about you in this matter should not prove hollow, but that you may be ready, as I said you would be.
4. For if any Macedonians come with me and find you unprepared, we—not to say anything about you—would be ashamed of having been so confident.
5. So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to visit you in advance and finish the arrangements for the generous gift you had promised. Then it will be ready as a generous gift, not as one grudgingly given.
Generosity Encouraged
6. Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.
7. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
8. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.
9. As it is written: "They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever."
10. Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.
11. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.
12. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.
13. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.
14. And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you.
15. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!