

Excitement is not Salvation

Mark 11:01-14

Series: Christ our Focus

1. Introduction:

- a. We have taken a good hard look at discipleship in the last few chapters and we have seen that a disciple of Jesus must:
 - i. Love the Lord more than himself
 - ii. Should never have an attitude of self-promotion or pride but rather must understand that greatness in the kingdom is being a servant/slave to all.
 - iii. Should never hinder the work of the Lord
 - iv. Should never hinder anyone else from coming to the Lord
- b. In this portion of Scripture, we are going to evaluate what part, if any, does emotionalism play in the salvific process.
 - i. I see emotionalism play a part in the supposed conversion of many. Churches:
 1. Play soft music
 2. Ask for a commitment
 3. Play to our base desire of entertainment
- c. A true conversion does not rely on emotionalism but on a heart transplant.

2. Verses 1—3

- a. This is the last week of Christ's ministry on earth
 - i. Within a week he is going to be crucified.
 - ii. Christ is fully aware of what is about to transpire and has embraced the redemptive plan of God fully
- b. Verse 1 –
 - i. On Saturday six days before the Passover, Jesus arrived at the small village of Bethphage and Bethany.
 - ii. On the next day he attended a dinner in His honor at the house of Simon the leper in Bethany. Matthew 26:6-13
- c. Verses 2-3 divine knowledge
 - i. Monday –
 1. The Passover lambs were selected on the tenth day of the first month (Nisan) and was sacrificed on the fourteenth

day. Jesus entered on the tenth day as the Father's chosen Lamb.

- ii. All that is about to occur has been ordained and Christ is fully aware of all the particulars.
 - 1. Where the colt would be.
 - 2. No one would have ridden it.
 - 3. The owners would approach.
 - 4. The owners would acquiesce.

3. Verses 4-6 –

- a. Discipleship means obedience to God.
 - i. It is fundamental
- b. We do what God has asked.
- c. We speak what God has told us to say.

4. Verse 7 –

- a. Jesus sits on the donkey
- b. Normally an entering king comes in on a royal stallion but Jesus enters his coronation on a donkey.
- c. Jesus here is fulfilling the Old Testament Prophecy
 - i. **Zechariah 9:9** Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
- d. He comes lowly, not as a conquering king against the Romans but as a humble sacrifice.

5. Verses 8-10

- a. Verse 8 –
 - i. Many spread coats and leafy branches
 - 1. A customary way of expressing submission to a monarch.
 - a. In this culture, a King is viewed as being elevated above the common people and these acts symbolically affirmed that they were under his feet.
 - 2. Jesus is now making a dramatic entrance – in the divinely determined plan for Jesus to die, the time has now come to proclaim publicly His Messiahship.
 - 3. This is a false coronation of the true King.
- b. Verse 9 –

i. Hosanna

1. Joyful exclamation of praise for deliverance with the connotation of “save us”
 - a. They are pleading for salvation from Romish oppression and not from what is truly needed, salvation from sin that separates us from God.
 - b. They want the blessings, and prosperity associated with Messiah’s reign and when they see that Jesus is not going to behave in their expected way, they will turn on him.
 - i. Most that are praising him on Monday, will be shouting, “crucify him.”
 - c. They knew of a Messiah but not the Messiah.
 - d. This is a faith-less praise and one that we need to be careful not to duplicate.
2. Jesus is not fooled:
 - a. **Luke 19:42-44** saying, "Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. (43) For the days will come upon you, when your enemies will set up a barricade around you and surround you and hem you in on every side (44) and tear you down to the ground, you and your children within you. And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation."

ii. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord

1. Blessed is the Messiah

- c. Verse 10 – Another very specific Messianic title applied to Christ.

6. Verse 11 – Entering the temple

- a. Christ, instead of entering and taking stock of the Romish Occupation, goes into the Jewish temple and performs a spiritual survey.
- b. The hour is late but on the next day, Jesus would demonstrate his full repulsion for a false worship.

7. Verses 12-14 – The fig tree

- a. Symbolic meaning to a true life event
- b. Verse 12 – On the following day, Christ is hungry
 - i. The Lord continues to be hungry, the Scriptures state:

- ii. **Matthew 3:8** Bear fruit in keeping with repentance.
 - iii. **John 15:1-2** "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. (2) Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.
 - iv. **Luke 13:6-7** And he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. (7) And he said to the vinedresser, 'Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?'
- c. Verse 13 – Leafy Tree
- i. Even though it was not the season for fruit, the tree was making a show of fruitfulness.
 - ii. The leaves were fully in bloom.
 - iii. This gave the appearance that there was fruit for the wary traveler.
 - iv. Symbolism –
 1. Christ had entered the temple looking for the fruits of repentance among his own people
 2. The Jewish religion was making a show, through their practices and traditions, of spiritual fruitfulness and yet all they were doing was serving themselves.
- d. Verse 14 –The curse
- i. If a tree makes a deceptive show of fruitfulness then may it be cursed.
 - ii. If a religion or an individual does the same, then it/he can expect to be cursed as well.
- e. Christ is hungry for fruit:
- i. True fruit is not a show or deception but authentic:
 1. **Galatians 5:22-23** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, (23) gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

8. The true Believer cries out:

a. Lead Me to Calvary

King of my life, I crown Thee now,
 Thine shall the glory be;
 Lest I forget They thorn-crowned brow;
 Lead me to Calvary

9. Benediction –

- a. **Matthew 7:17-19** So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. (18) A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. (19) Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.