

The beginning of the End

Three Days in Jerusalem

Mark 11:1-25

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Introduction

- Getting toward the climax of Mark's gospel
- Three days in Jerusalem:
- Day 1 (v.1-11) – Jesus arrives
- Day 2 (v.12-19) – Jesus curses fig tree & clears temple
- Day 3 (11:20-13:37) – Jesus teaches & is tested

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Day One (v.1-11)

- We have reached Jerusalem...
- Anticipation high:
 - Jesus riding on a colt (Zechariah 9:9)
 - Jesus accepting cloaks & palm branches (2 Kings 9:13)
 - Jesus accepts shouts of 'Hosanna!'
- But... nothing happens. They go back to Bethany.

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Day Two (v.12-19)

- The sandwich – how Mark presents temple
- The fig tree:
 - Not so strange?
 - All the signs of fruit, but no actual fruit

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Day Two (v.12-19)

- The temple:
 - Jesus is getting angry!
 - All happening in Court of the Gentiles
 - Stopping Gentiles from worshipping God
- House of Prayer – Isaiah 56
- Den of Robbers – Jeremiah 7
- Jesus: not restoring, but terminating the temple

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Day Three (v.20-25)

- Fig tree again (v.20) – the enacted parable
- Temple will go the way of the fig tree
- What about us?
 - Fruitful or full of leaves?
 - How can we tell?
 - Have faith in God!

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Day Three (v.20-25)

- A Strange explanation (v.22-25)
 - Have faith in God!
- 2 aspects:
 - Belief / expectation – ‘True faith is unconditional openness to God, a decision in the face of all to the contrary that *Jesus is able.*’
 - Forgiveness – what we received, we pass on
- This morning: Have faith in God!

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