

Daily Bible Study

“Hidden Majesty & Humble Power”

Mark 11:1 - 11

October 2 – October 8, 2011

THE LORD’S DAY & MONDAY –Our text for this week’s study is **Mark 11:1-11** as we continue along in this wonderful record of Jesus life and ministry recorded by Mark. This week’s text just continues to build toward climax as so much of what we have been hearing Mark tell us concerning Jesus’ humility, servant hood, and His teaching that true greatness is found in being the slave of all is now even illustrated to us in Mark’s recording of what is known today as The Triumphal Entry. This is a passage we usually see on Palm Sunday as we prepare to celebrate our Lord’s passion and resurrection. The climax moment of Jesus laying Himself down to die for His people in the ultimate act of love and service is surrounded by and adorned by these incredible teachings and displays of Jesus humility amidst the arrogance, pride, and selfishness of His disciples and the vast crowds. The events of this text take place on what we would call Sunday and as mentioned would recognize as The Triumphal Entry. The week of Jesus Passion begins here. In short summary of the text, He sends two of his disciples to a village to find a colt. We find His predictions concerning the details of acquiring the colt and the conversation with its owner are literally fulfilled. The disciples bring the colt to Jesus, they threw their clothes on it, and Jesus begins His Kingly, Triumphant ride toward and into Jerusalem. The crowd is excited and they for the most part have their minds filled with thoughts of retribution from enemies and earthly glory. They recognize Jesus and welcome Him with shouts of Hosanna! Jesus gets into the city, visits the temple, and then proceeds out of Jerusalem to Bethany. **Mark 11:1- 11** *“Now when they drew near Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, He sent two of His disciples; and He said to them, “Go into the village opposite you; and as soon as you have entered it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has sat. Loose it and bring it. And if anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord has need of it,’ and immediately he will send it here.” So they went their way, and found the colt tied by the door outside on the street, and they loosed it. But some of those who stood there said to them, “What are you doing, loosing the colt?” And they spoke to them just as Jesus had commanded. So they let them go. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their clothes on it, and He sat on it. And many spread their clothes on the road, and others cut down leafy branches from the trees and spread them on the road. Then those who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: “Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!’ Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!” And Jesus went into Jerusalem and into the temple. So when He had looked around at all things, as the hour was already late, He went out to Bethany with the twelve.”*

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

Suggestion for Prayer: Father God, teach and feed me from Your Word this week. Help me to see the humility and greatness of Jesus in this text and love Him and follow Him more faithfully.

TUESDAY – Mark 11:1-2 “Now when they drew near Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, He sent two of His disciples; and He said to them, “Go into the village opposite you; and as soon as you have entered it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has sat. Loose it and bring it.” We pick up the story and find that the disciples and our Lord are approaching Jerusalem. Mark gives some geography for us and then records for us Jesus instruction given *two of His disciples*. They are told to go into this village and they will immediately *find a colt tied* which will be *a colt, on which no one has sat*. This is an animal that has never been used for work. Matthew informs us that the colt’s mother was also brought as Jesus even avoids distressing these animals by not separating them. As Jesus would ride the colt, the mother would also walk along. The fact Jesus calls for a *colt on which no one has sat* tells us the special, sacred job this animal would do. In Scripture animals that had not been used or worked were reserved for sacred purposes (**Numbers 19:2, Deuteronomy 21:3, 1 Samuel 6:7**). We also have an OT Scriptural example of “The royal donkey” if you will being ridden by no one but the king in **1 Kings 1:33** where Solomon rides David’s donkey. It is interesting to notice all the facts surrounding Jesus’ life that had this special quality; Jesus mother Mary was a virgin when Jesus was conceived in her womb (**Matthew 1:25, Luke 1:34**). From His birth to His death we find this. If you recall, at Jesus burial He was placed in a tomb *where no one had ever lain before* (**Luke 23:53**). These details are not mere coincidence or matters of chance circumstance; rather, they were and are planned and orchestrated by God Almighty and were carried out exactly as they should have been. Likewise, everything that takes place in your life beloved has also been crafted and planned carefully and orderly. Jesus in giving these orders to the disciples shows us a bit of His Divinity alongside His humanity. He prophecies what will take place in the future to them because He is in perfect control of the future as God in the flesh. Jesus sees us at all times Beloved and loves, cares, and *knows* us as He did Nathaniel under the fig tree in **John 1:48**. Be at rest and peace in the Almighty caring arms of your Savior dear Christian.

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, thank You for such a perfectly orchestrated plan. Help me to see and rest in the truth that You are Sovereign over the affairs of my life and love and care for me.

WEDNESDAY – Mark 11:3-6 “*And if anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord has need of it,’ and immediately he will send it here.*” So they went their way, and found the colt tied by the door outside on the street, and they loosed it. But some of those who stood there said to them, “What are you doing, loosing the colt?” And they spoke to them just as Jesus had commanded. So they let them go.” The last words of **verse 2** contain the command of Jesus to His disciples concerning what they are to do when they find *the colt* that is *tied, on which no one has sat*. They were told to *Loose it and bring it*. Now we find Jesus lets them know what to say if they are questioned while doing this. **Verse 3** has been understood differently by scholars throughout church history. Among the questions they ask is whether or not Jesus is displaying His divine, providential, sovereign power here as He exercises control over events yet to happen or if He has merely set this arrangement up previously with the owners of this colt and they knowing Jesus, let the colt go to the disciples when they are reminded of the arrangement by the words, “*The Lord has need of it*”. There is also question as to an insertion in the Greek text of the word “again” (πάλι) at the end of the phrase *and immediately he will send it here* (again). These issues and discussions may be interesting coffee talk among theologians and we can’t be dogmatic as to rule out that the owners of the colt may have had arrangement with Christ. It is probable they had at least heard of Jesus as He was in Jerusalem often in His earthly ministry. However, in light of passages such as **Mark 14:33** (which clearly reveal Divine omniscience) and Luke’s parallel account in **Luke 19:33** that specifically records the *owners of the colt* asking what the disciples are doing (revealing their surprise to the situation), it seems safe to say that we can see in this the supernatural, sovereign power of Jesus as ultimate ruler of nature and ruler of men. Is this not Mark’s entire underlying point as he has been showing this *humble servant* is actually in fact “*the greatest*”? Controlling all things; this ***Hidden Majesty & Humble Power*** points to Jesus as Messiah, God incarnate, the servant man who is God. As one commentator puts it, “The man who rides the donkey is more than an ordinary man, though the crowds do not yet know this. Only the disciples are privileged to see it (if even they can).” Who do you see when you look at Jesus and what do You want from Him?

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

Suggestion for Prayer: Jesus, thank You for being in complete control of my life and the details in it.

THURSDAY – Mark 11:7-10 “*Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their clothes on it, and He sat on it. And many spread their clothes on the road, and others cut down leafy branches from the trees and spread them on the road. Then those who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: ‘Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!’ Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!’*” We now find that the when the *colt* is brought to Jesus the disciples *throw their clothes on it* and Jesus *sat on it* to begin the ride into Jerusalem. Not only are the disciples involved but the crowd (*many,*

others) are also a part as they *spread their clothes on the road* as well as *cut down branches from the trees*. All this behavior was a customary way of treating a king (**2 Kings 9:12–13**). We get our “Palm Sunday” and the use of palm branches in celebration of this event from the Gospel of John as he identifies the branches as palm (**John 12:13**). Not only do we have a celebration in visual form but also an audio one as the people shout among other things, “*Hosanna!*” The word here is a translation of the phrase meaning literally, “save now” taken from **Psalm 118:25-26**. Those verses say, “*Save now, I pray, O LORD; O LORD, I pray, send now prosperity. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD! We have blessed you from the house of the LORD.*” You can see the theme here is one of a celebration that The Lord is sending deliverance and salvation to His people. This Psalm and the words of the people are words of pilgrims crying out for salvation and recognizing it has come in the person being celebrated, *Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!* Further enhancing the obvious Messianic implications and links to Jesus is the phrase *Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!*” Earlier in Mark 10:47 we saw the blind man crying out to The Son of David and here again this Messianic title to David’s greater Son is given. Finally we have recorded that the people were shouting, *Hosanna in the highest!* This is so reminiscent of the promise of God through the angel Gabriel to Mary recorded in **Luke 1:26-33**.

(Meditate)What is God teaching me from His Word today? (Apply)How can I put it into practice?

Suggestion for Prayer: Father, thank You for giving me faith and the gift of repentance by Your Holy Spirit. Help me not lose the wonder of Your goodness & mercy while I call others to You.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY – **Mark 11:11** “*And Jesus went into Jerusalem and into the temple. So when He had looked around at all things, as the hour was already late, He went out to Bethany with the twelve.*” The incredible loud, visible celebration of the preceding verses would not be fully understood by the disciples until after Jesus resurrection (**John 12:16**). What is so neat is Jesus patience amidst the learning curve of these blockheads. He is patient, He is humble and He did right, and lived as a man without deserved respect and recognition, often not even understood by men; this is the man who is God beloved. Oh, how we need to walk and be humble like Him. Well, after it all, Mark, tethered to the cause of revealing the humility and low key servant heart of Jesus now again brings this account to a quite but powerful conclusion. This is yet another moment of ***Hidden Majesty & Humble Power*** if you will. Many would say this quiet survey of the temple is hardly a fitting climax to the preceding verses but again we see demonstrated The God Man’s quiet sovereign control of the situation. This is Jesus’ situation, not one running out of control but one completely under His mighty hand. Jesus isn’t caught in the emotion of the situation, He lives in truth not enthusiasm, demonstrating true discipleship.

Suggestion for Prayer: Jesus thank You for such an example of true humility and service. Teach me to live like you. I praise You for being the only perfect man and savior of the imperfect.