

032424

The Beloved's Arrival and Reception

Mark 11:1-11

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Background

For almost two millennia, Christians have celebrated the final week of our Lord's life, from his entrance into Jerusalem as King on Palm Sunday to his death on Passover and resurrection on Easter Sunday. The striking thing about these events is that every act of holiness and devotion is birthed in the context of ultimate evil. It is impossible to find a greater expression of love and sorrow than what was manifest during this week when, in the words of the poet, *"sorrow and love flow mingled down."* Our text this morning is primarily about worship, and therefore extremely important, since worship is what makes us most human. What this text will teach us is how to give Jesus, our King, the acclamation he deserves.

Sermon Text: *Mk 11:1-11 (ESV)*

1 Now when they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples *2* and said to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. *3* If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.'" *4* And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. *5* And some of those standing there said to them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" *6* And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. *7* And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. *8* And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. *9* And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he

who comes in the name of the Lord! 10 Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!"

11 And he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple. And when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

Discussion Questions

1. Preparation

- a. What is one thing you hoped to talk about today/tonight?
- b. What question(s) did you come away with from the sermon?
- c. What is the best thing you heard on Sunday?

2. Sunday questions

- a. What do you immediately think of when you hear that it's Palm Sunday?
- b. Brian said that "authentic worship is what makes us most human." Another way to say that is that God designed us to worship. If someone asked you to define worship, what would you say?
 - What is it in your life which leads you to worship?
 - What is it in your life which hinders you from worship?
- c. Brian's takeaways were these:
 - The primacy of humility
 - The beauty of anonymity
 - The glory of spontaneity
 - The poignant silence
 - Which one speaks to you the most, and why?
 - What one do you still have questions about? Discuss.
- d. Regarding the last bullet (the poignant silence), Brian said that "True worship involves embracing sorrow." Name a personal sorrow you are currently experiencing. Are you able to worship in the midst of it? Why or why not?