

Mark 11:1-11

Every student of history is supposed to know Julius Caesar's famous words before he crossed the River Rubicon, 'The die is cast'.

It means that a point of no return has been reached. **That was true now for Jesus.** He had committed himself to going to Jerusalem. There was no turning back.

Summary

In Mark 11:1-11, Jesus rides triumphantly toward and into Jerusalem as the promised Davidic king in fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy and is welcomed with wild enthusiasm by the crowds.

1. Kingly Arrival vv. 1-10

Why did Jesus ride into Jerusalem?

It was an unusual act because pilgrims usually made the last part of their journey to the city on foot.

It was the fulfillment of an ancient prophecy (**Zech 9:9**). For those who had eyes to see, it was a deliberate claim to be the One of whom the prophets had so clearly written.

The crowds of pilgrims, who were also making their way to Jerusalem, were caught up in what was happening, and began to sing and shout the words of the pilgrim hymns of the psalter. They greeted him as one who had come in the name of the Lord. The animals used in the OT system of worship were invariably those which had not been employed in secular business. Hidden in the very heart of this symbolism was the message that Jesus had come to give his life as a ransom sacrifice for men's sins!

Application

Jesus came to Jerusalem to die, and He desired that all Jerusalem should know it.

When the time came that He should die, He drew the attention of all to Himself.

We see here one more proof of the unspeakable importance of the death of Christ.

Never let us forget that the crowning fact in all we know of Jesus Christ is His death upon the cross. From that death flow all our hopes.

May we prize that death more and more every year we live; and in all our thoughts about Christ, rejoice in nothing so much as the great fact that He died for us!

2. Humble Disposition

Yet, for all Jesus' kingly bearing in his entry into Jerusalem, He does not enter Jerusalem in pomp and circumstance. Whether the animal itself is deliberately

symbolic of humility or kingly majesty, nevertheless, it is with meekness and lowliness that Christ enters the city which is to reject him.

These are virtually the only qualities in his own character to which Jesus ever drew attention (**Matt 11:28-30; Luke 19:41-44**).

Application

We see here the voluntary poverty which was our Lord's when He was upon earth.

We have an example of that marvelous union of weakness and power, riches and poverty, the godhead and the manhood, traced in the history of our blessed Lord.

We see the power of our Lord in His ordaining this vast multitude to conduct Him into Jerusalem in triumph. We see the poverty of our Lord in His borrowing a colt, to carry Him when He made His triumphal entry.

If we saw His divinity only, we might forget that He was Man. If we saw His seasons of poverty and weakness only, we might forget that He was God. We are intended to see in Jesus Christ, divine strength and human weakness united in one person.

"We cannot explain the mystery; but we may take comfort in the thought, this is our Savior, this is our Christ: one able to sympathize, because He is Man ; but one Almighty to save, because He is God."

3. Victor's Triumph vs. 11

How stark the contrast between Roman glory and Jesus' humility must have seemed to Mark's first readers in Rome.

Yet we know that Christ's kingdom was established, whilst the glory that was Rome disappeared into oblivion.

What were Jesus' thoughts as he made his way to the temple that evening, and 'looked around at everything' (**Mark 11:11**)?

Did he remember the first time he had seen it, as a twelve-year-old boy (**Luke 2:41-52**)?

Did he think back through the history of his people, and ponder some of the statements of the Psalms, about this place that it would soon be destroyed again.

There was only one kingdom which would stand - the kingdom which would come soon, through his death and resurrection.

With those thoughts, and similar ones in his mind, he realized it was late, and returned to Bethany.

Now it was just a matter of time.