

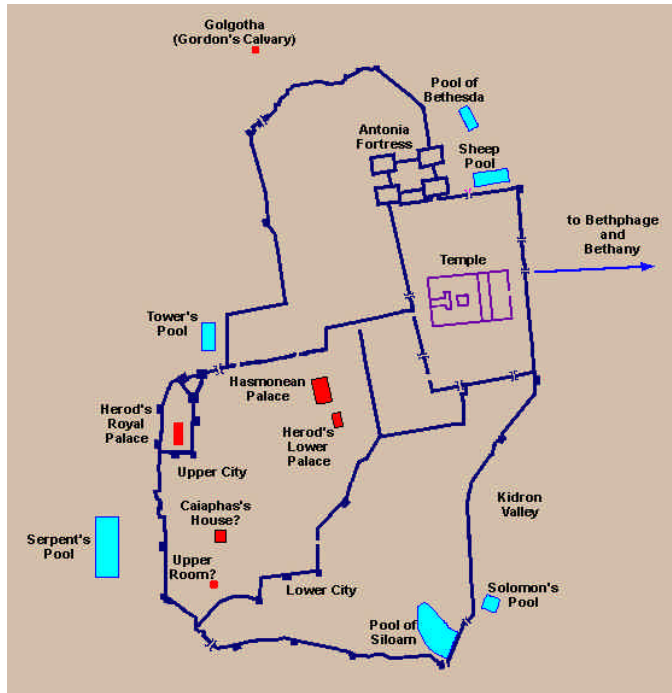
Chapter Eleven TURNING TOWARD HOME



WHERE IS JESUS?

1. Bethphage and Bethany
2. Mount of Olives
3. Jerusalem

Jerusalem and Vicinity



OVERVIEW : The first ten chapters of Mark deal with nearly three years of Jesus' life and ministry. The last six chapters deal with His final week! Every year at Passover, thousands of Jews made the pilgrimage to Jerusalem for the weeklong celebration. It is likely that this was Jesus' third trip to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover.

This one was unique in two very important respects: It would be His last, and He would allow the people to celebrate His entrance. Throughout the Gospel According to Mark, we have seen Jesus silencing all who would seek to publicly praise Him

as the Son of God and the Savior or coming Messiah. On this final visit, that all changed. As He prepared to enter Jerusalem to complete His journey to the cross, the crowd was allowed to line the streets and shout “Hosanna!” as He rode by on the donkey’s colt. What an amazing scene that must have been.

Along the way, Jesus curses a fig tree that is bearing no fruit and cleanses the temple of the money changers and merchants. These two incidents are vivid portrayals of the spiritual emptiness that He finds among the Jews in Jerusalem—especially the Pharisees. These same Pharisees confront Jesus to challenge Him regarding His authority to drive the merchants out of the temple. Jesus accepts their challenge head on, and when they sheepishly back down, He simply dismisses them and moves on!

Read Mark 11:1.

- ? *Bethphage* is a town about a mile outside Jerusalem. The name means “House of Unripe Figs.”
- ? *Bethany* is about two miles out of Jerusalem and its name means “House of Dates or Figs.”
- ? *Mount of Olives* is a high ridge about two miles long on the eastside of Jerusalem. It is known for its many olive trees.

Read Mark 11:7-8.

- ? *He sat on it.* In fulfillment of the prophecy concerning the Messiah found in Zechariah 9:9, Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey’s colt.

Read Mark 11:9-10.

? *Hosanna!* A Hebrew expression meaning "Save now!" The crowd chanted the words found in Psalm 118:26 as they laid palm branches on the road before Jesus. Christians celebrate this event on Palm Sunday.

FOR YOUR PERSONAL STUDY:

1. As Jesus entered Jerusalem, what was He riding and what did the crowd do in response?
2. Why did Jesus choose a donkey's colt instead of a royal horse or chariot to ride into town? (read Zechariah 9:9, 10)
3. Why did Jesus say "I have no peace" to the Pharisees?
4. Jesus got very angry, but didn't sin. What are things that Christians should be angry about and how do you get angry without sinning?
5. What do you think prayer that moves mountains looks like in the believer's life today?
6. Why didn't Jesus want to tell the Pharisees by what authority He was acting?

FOR YOUR GROUP STUDY:

1. What observations have you made in your study of Mark this week?
2. In what ways does “praise from people” in your life get in the way of honoring God?
3. The fig tree looked like it should be bearing fruit but wasn’t. How does this picture apply to your life in Christ?
3. What do you think were the expectations of the crowd for Jesus as He made His entrance into Jerusalem?
4. Have you ever misunderstood what Jesus was doing in your life, praising Him one day and rebuking Him the next? Explain.
5. Read 11:12-26. How does the cursing of the fig tree relate to the cleansing of the temple?

6. Why do you think Jesus was so upset about the buying and selling that was going on in the temple?

7. What happened after Jesus cursed the fig tree?

8. Why do you think Peter was so amazed when he saw the withered tree?

9. What does Jesus teach about prayer in verses 22-25?

10. What kind of implications do these verses have on your prayer life?

11. Read verses 27-33. How did Jesus answer the Pharisees' question about His authority to clear the temple?