

THE KING AND HIS CROSS



Encounters with Jesus in the Gospel of Mark

Mark 11:1-21

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.

Mark 11:1-21

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!"

Mark 11:1-21

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. ¹² On the following day, when they came from Bethany, he was hungry. ¹³ And seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to see if he could find anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. ¹⁴ And he said to it, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard it.

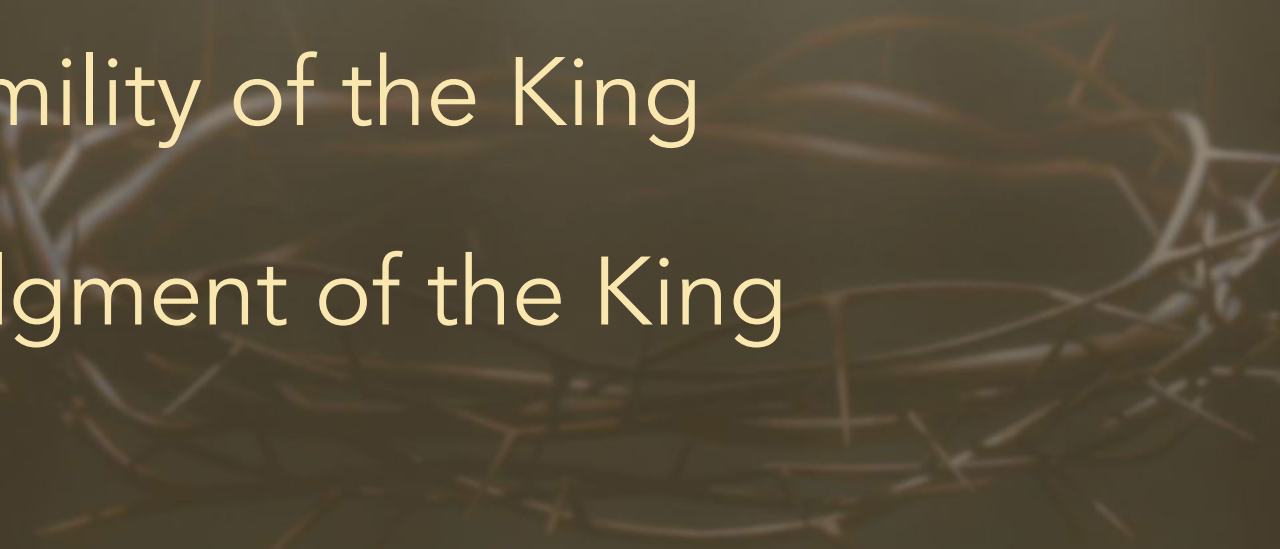
Mark 11:1-21

¹⁵ And they came to Jerusalem. And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold and those who bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. ¹⁶ And he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple. ¹⁷ And he was teaching them and saying to them, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations'? But you have made it a den of robbers."

Mark 11:1-21

¹⁸ And the chief priests and the scribes heard it and were seeking a way to destroy him, for they feared him, because all the crowd was astonished at his teaching. ¹⁹ And when evening came they went out of the city. ²⁰ As they passed by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered away to its roots. ²¹ And Peter remembered and said to him, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree that you cursed has withered."

Outline

1. The Need for a King
 2. The Humility of the King
 3. The Judgment of the King
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1. The Need for a King

Mark 11:1-10

1. The Need for a King

Application

- Every person, in one way or another, is seeking a kingdom—or at least the things we associate with it: truth, freedom, and justice.

Les Misérables



LES MISÉRABLES: "One Day More" from Les Misérables, photo by Matthew Murphy

1. The Need for a King

Application

- Every person, in one way or another, is seeking a kingdom—or at least the things we associate with it: truth, freedom, and justice.



2. The Humility of the King

Mark 11:1-10

Zechariah 9:9

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!

behold, your king is coming to you;

righteous and having salvation is he,

humble and mounted on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

2. The Humility of the King

Application

- If our king is humble, how much more should we be as his people?

John 13:16

Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.





How is it that people who are quite obviously eaten up with pride can say they believe in God and appear to themselves very religious? I am afraid it means they are worshipping an imaginary God.

—C. S. Lewis

2. The Humility of the King

Application

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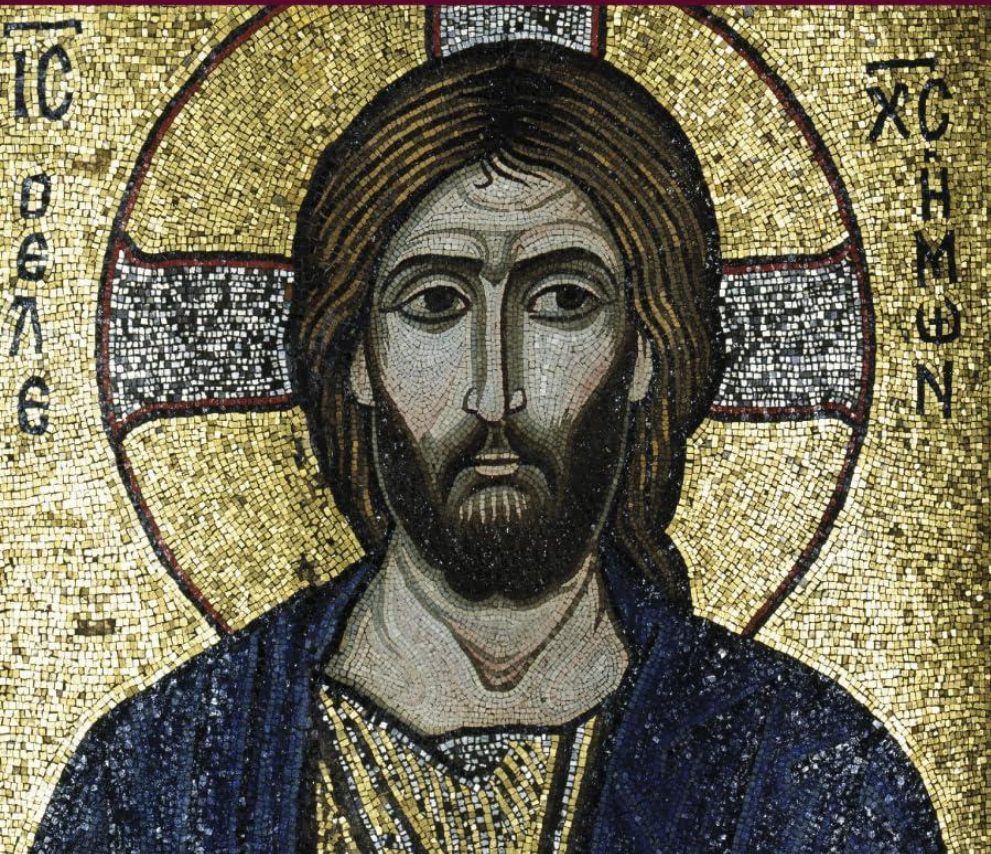
3. The Judgment of the King

Mark 11:11-21

JESUS

AND THE
VICTORY OF GOD

N.T. WRIGHT



The Temple was, in Jesus' day, the central symbol of Judaism, the location of Israel's most characteristic praxis, the topic of some of her most vital stories, the answer to her deepest questions, the subject of some of her most beautiful songs.

—N. T. Wright

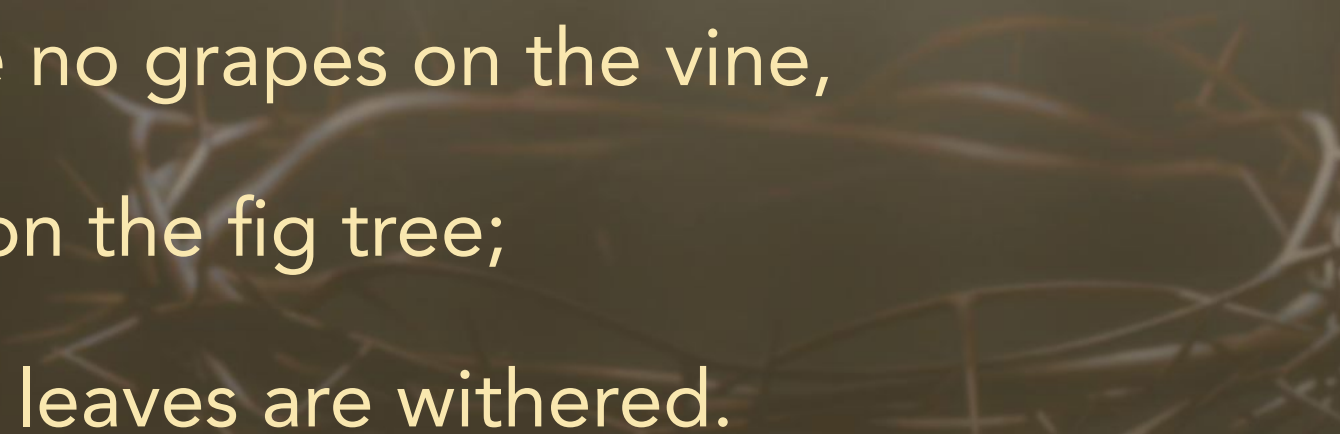


3. The Judgment of the King

Mark 11:11-21

Jeremiah 8:13

When I would gather them, declares the Lord,
there are no grapes on the vine,
nor figs on the fig tree;
even the leaves are withered.



3. The Judgment of the King

Application

- Is our religion an outward show without the inward reality—like the fig tree: all leaves, but no fruit?

Isaiah 53:4-5

Surely he has borne our griefs

and carried our sorrows;

yet we esteemed him stricken,

smitten by God, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions;

he was crushed for our iniquities;

upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,

and with his wounds we are healed.

3. The Judgment of the King

Application

- Our king came not only to judge evil, but to take that judgment upon himself. Do you trust him?