

Marks of Discipleship

Daily Prayer ■ Weekly Worship ■ Bible Reading
Giving Time, Talents & Resources ■ Spiritual
Friendships ■ Service In & Beyond the Church

April 10, 2022

Day 1: Mark 11:1-2

¹When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Beth phage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples ²and said to them, ‘Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it.

The Mount of Olives is a short distance from the entrance to the Temple Mount, in Jerusalem. Bethany is on the west side of the hill called the Mt. of Olives. Beth phage is a very small village (really a collection of houses) a Sabbath's day journey (the distance a person was allowed to walk on the Sabbath) from the temple court. It is about a mile walk in total. It was Jesus' intention to dramatize who He was. He was preparing a living parable.

Question: Have you ever been in a parade? Would you rather be in one or watch one?

Challenge: Take a walk this week of at least a mile. Do this each day and while you walk think about your life to date.

Scripture: Matthew 21:1-11

Day 2: Mark 11:3

³If anyone says to you, “Why are you doing this?” just say this, “The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.”

The reason they were willing to give up the colt so quickly is found in the statement “the Lord” has need of it. This is not Jesus' first trip to this area. In fact, He has been here a number of times. He is well known by the people in the villages on the Mt. of Olives. They knew He was Lord so the title the disciples used told the person with the colt that God was calling them to give up something valuable for the kingdom. We never know when God will call upon us to give up something important for the kingdom.

Question: How do you like horseback riding?

Challenge: When have you felt “someone” saying to you, “the Lord has need of it”?

Scripture: John 12:9-19

Day 3: Mark 11:4-6

⁴They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, ⁵some of the bystanders said to them, ‘What are you doing, untying the colt?’ ⁶They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it.

This sounds like a repeat of the verse above. The difference is that in verse 3 Jesus is telling what the disciples can expect. In verse 4 the disciples are experiencing the truth of what Jesus told them. We have heard the good news of God's love but until we accept and experience that sense of forgiveness that comes from God it is just information. It does not become personal until we experience it. This is why we must help people experience the love of God, that love we have already experienced. We cannot preach the word until we have believed it ourselves.

Question: What are the three most valuable things that you have?

Challenge: What would it mean for you to give the best or most valuable things you have to God?

Scripture: Zachariah 9:9-10, Isaiah 2:1-4, Micah 4:1-3

Day 4: Mark 11:7-8

⁷Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. ⁸Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields.

Jesus picks a colt to make His entry because he wanted to place emphasis on the fact that His kingdom is of a different nature. He comes not as a conquering hero on a war horse, but as the king of peace. He brings a kingdom that has hope for humanity and comes from God. Spreading cloaks and waving branches was a way to honor someone.

Question: Today, how do we show respect for someone in a parade?

Challenge: If God will bring about the kingdom when God wants to, why should we work to bring it about?

Scripture: Nehemiah 8:10-18

Day 5: Mark 11:9

⁹Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting, ‘Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

One of the things the crowd did for Jesus was to acknowledge Him as Lord. In effect they were saying that He was the greatest. This kind of affirmation was needed by Jesus so he could go through the days to come. In the days to come some of the same people would call for his death. For now the crowd recognized Jesus as the King and was willing to proclaim it for all to hear.

Question: What good news have you shared this week?

Challenge: List five things about yourself that are outstanding.

Scripture: Mark 14:1-31

Day 6: Mark 11:10

¹⁰Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest heaven!

The hope of the people in Judah at this time was that God would now establish the new kingdom on earth. They believed that God loved them and they believed that God, the creator and covenant God, would finally bring them back from exile. They did not know exactly how this would happen and they especially did not know when. They knew it would be soon but they did not know how soon. There were plenty of opinions as to how and when and what they should do to prepare. All of these opinions contributed to the leaders not recognizing Jesus as the one they waited for and the time of redemption being now. Palm Sunday was a brief time when both Jesus and the crowd, on Palm Sunday, experienced and expressed the joy of God's promise fulfilled. They hailed and acknowledged Jesus as Lord.

Question: How do you think the crowd knew to hail Jesus as king?

Challenge: Easter is coming in two days. Write down how you have experienced the resurrection.

Scripture: Mark 14:32-72