

January 27: The Final Week Begins

1. Read **John 11:55- 12:11** and answer:

- What orders did the chief priests and Pharisees give concerning Jesus during that Passover?
- Six days before the Passover, Jesus arrives in Bethany. While a dinner is being served in his honor. What does Mary do for Jesus?
- Who objected to this?
- What did he say?
- What was his real motivation?
- How did Jesus respond to his criticism of Mary?
- Besides Jesus, who else were the crowds coming to see?
- What did the chief priests plan to do about this?

Notes : "Nard" or spikenard is made from the crushed rhizome of a plant of the honeysuckle family. It is a thick amber colored oil with an earthy, musky odor used as a perfume, incense, or for medical uses. It is normally stored in an alabaster box.

Judas was the only one of the twelve who was not from Galilee. He was from Cariot, a banking town in Judea. Perhaps this is why he was the group's treasurer.

2. Read **Matthew 21:1-11, Luke 19:37-44, and Mark 11:11** and answer:

- What instructions did Jesus give two of his disciples as they approached Jerusalem near Bethphage?
- How did Jesus then enter Jerusalem?
- What prophecy did this fulfill?
- What did the people do as Jesus came into the city?
- What did they shout?
- What was the reaction of the Pharisees to the crowd's actions?
- What did Jesus say to them?
- Why did Jesus weep over the city of Jerusalem as he approached it?
- What did Jesus do when in Jerusalem this time? (Mark 11:11)

Notes: See **Zech 9:9**. "Hosanna" – means 'Lord save us.' They were looking for a physical 'king' to lead them and drive out the Roman occupiers. (This lack of understanding of His mission is why Jesus was weeping for them.)

3. Read **Mark 11:12-25** and answer:

- Why did Jesus curse the fig tree on his way into Jerusalem the next day?
- What did Jesus do when he went into the temple?
- Why did he do this?
- Was this the first time he had done this? (See John 2:12-18)
- Why did the leaders not arrest or kill Jesus at this time?

- Where did Jesus go after this cleansing of the temple?
- The next day they pass the same fig tree on their way into Jerusalem. What amazed the disciples about it?
- What did Jesus tell them about having faith?
- What did Jesus tell them about praying?
- How did Jesus spend his days, and where did he spend the nights?

Notes: Fig trees normally produce a small quantity of fruit before the leaves emerge, then the main crop after it has fully leafed out. Seeing leaves, Jesus would have expected at least a small amount of fruit. If we claim to be Christians (have leafed out), Jesus should expect at least a small amount of fruit from us. If not, we also face His curse.

What was unusual about the way the fig tree withered? (From the roots up - opposite of how things usually die back. Its source of life was cut off)

4. Read **Matthew 21:23-46** and answer:

- When teaching in the temple, Jesus is questioned about his authority. He said he would answer if the questioners would also answer one question. What was that short question?
- What answer did they give?
- What answer did Jesus give?
- Jesus tells a parable about two sons that were asked to work in their father's vineyard. What was the lesson of the parable?
- Jesus then tells a parable of a landowner who rented out his vineyard to tenants who refused to give him his share of the harvest. What happened when the landowner sent servants to collect the harvest?
- Besides servants, who else did the landowner send to the tenants, and what did they do to him?
- What did the people say should be done to those wicked tenants?
- What scripture did Jesus quote to them?
- How did Jesus apply it to them?

Notes: Why would the temple leaders not answer Jesus' question? (Either answer would get them in 'trouble') (See Psalms 118:22-23)

How did this parable of 'renting out the vineyard' describe exactly what had been and was now happening in Jerusalem? (God was coming to His vineyard seeking His rightful fruit of praise, He had sent prophets to them – including John the Baptizer – but they killed them. Now the Son of God had come and even though He identified himself to them and they knew who He was – they were about to kill Him also. God's wrath – the destruction of Jerusalem – was the result of their rejection.)

5. Read **Matthew 22:1-14** and answer:

- Jesus tells a parable about a king who gave a wedding feast for his son. In what ways is this parable similar to the parable of the wicked tenants?
- What happened to a wedding guest who did not wear wedding clothes to the feast?
- What application did Jesus make?

Notes: When someone was invited to a special occasion by a ruler, the ruler would supply the required garment for the person to wear (clothes were expensive) What does this say about the one who was improperly dressed? (Refused to follow the rules and wear the required garment even though it was supplied free to him.)

Who are given the clothes to enter the kingdom feast and what is the only acceptable 'attire'? See Gal 3:27 If we refuse to obey God and put on the required garments, we cannot enter heaven or find salvation. Note that just being 'in the banquet hall' (at church) did not make the person acceptable!

6. Read **Matthew 22:15-33** and **Mark 12:28-3** and answer:

- The leaders now come to Jesus with a series of questions that they think will trap Jesus. What question do the Pharisees and Herodians ask first?
- How did Jesus answer the question?
- What was the leader's reaction to this answer?
- What fantastic story do the Sadducees now ask Jesus about?
- Why would the Sadducees think this would stump Jesus?
- How did Jesus answer the Sadducees? What rebuke did he give them?
- How did he show them their rejection of the resurrection was incorrect according to Moses?
- An expert in the law then asks Jesus what question?
- How did Jesus answer?
- What was the response by the expert?"
- How did Jesus then respond to him?
- What did Jesus' answers do to further questions?

Notes: The word translated 'taxes' in some versions is the word meaning 'tribute'. Tribute was the payment made by a subjected people to the one subjecting them (In this case, Rome)

The Sadducees story is based on Deut 25:5. But the Sadducees did not believe in a resurrection at all, and accepted only the five books of Moses, so this wasn't even a possibility to them.

What was the point of Jesus' answer to their question? (Sadducees thought when you died, that was all there was – no bodily resurrection – just perhaps some ghostly ethereal existence at most.

What did Jesus mean when he told the expert – ‘You are not far from the kingdom of God?’ The man understood what God was expecting from His people and would be ready to accept the message of the coming of the kingdom from Jesus. (He just used the scriptures, not the Jewish ‘traditions’.)

7. Read **Mark 12: 35-40** and answer:

- What question does Jesus then ask which they could not answer?
- What scripture does he quote?
- What was the reaction of the people to Jesus?
- Why did Jesus tell the people to be wary of the teachers of the law?

Notes: (See Psalms 110:1) The leaders always taught that the messiah would be from the line of David (a descendant) and would sit on David’s throne. If David called Him ‘LORD’, what problem did that pose to the leaders?

In what way were the leaders of Jesus day like our leaders today, so far as their actions toward the ‘ordinary’ people?