

March 20, 2016
The Last Lasts
The Last Hurrah
Pastor Rick Rufenacht



Mark 11:1-25

Jesus is the King of Peace

Is 9:6 Jn 14:27 Is 53:5

Don't Disregard the Temple

Matt 11:17 Heb 10:25 1 Cor 6:19 1 Cor 6:13

Good Fruit is Always In Season

Jn 15:5 - 8

Faith Living is Normal

Heb 11:6 Rom 1:17

If you were a Jew living in Jerusalem during the time of Jesus and saw Him ride into the city on a donkey, what would you think? Would this have lived up to your expectations for Him? What does this say about the message Jesus was trying to communicate? The people cheered but did they really get it?

Now read Zechariah 9:9. Zechariah's prophecies occurred about 570 BC. Does your knowledge of this prophecy change how you might view how Jesus chose to enter Jerusalem?

Read Mark 3:11-12, 7:35-37 and 8:27-30. These events occurred before Jesus made his triumphal entrance into Jerusalem. Why was Jesus trying so hard to keep a low profile? He must have known that word would eventually get out. What does this say about the kind of King that Jesus was?

Jesus entered Jerusalem about a week before the major Jewish festival and feast of Passover. One author described the scene as follows: "The city itself and the neighborhood became more and more crowded as the feast approached, the narrow streets and dark arched bazaars showing the same throng of men of all nations as when Jesus had first visited Jerusalem as a boy. Even the temple offered a strange sight at this season, for in parts of the outer courts a wide space was covered with pens for sheep goats and cattle for offerings. Sellers shouted the merits of their beasts. Sellers of doves also had a place set apart for them. Potters offered a choice of huge stacks of clay dishes and ovens for roasting and eating the Passover lamb. Booths for wine, oil, salt, and all else needed for sacrifices invited customers....Stalls to change foreign money into the shekel of the temple, which alone could be paid to the priests, were numerous, the whole confusion making the sanctuary like a noisy market." (Geikie's Life of Christ)

This circus atmosphere around the temple during the Passover festival had been going on since Jesus was a boy, and probably well before that. Why do you think Jesus decided to attack this well-established tradition at this particular time? Do you think He

understood what the consequences would be?

The Jews believed that the innermost regions of their temples were holy places. Yet they accepted unholy activities to occur around this holy core. Dr. Charles Stanley, writing about the Corinthian people of Paul's time, says "(They) had a low view of the body. They believed that it was unimportant and even described it as a tomb in which the soul is incarcerated." What is Paul's response?

(read 1 Corinthians 6:16, 19-20). How does Paul's message to the Corinthians (and to us, as today's Christians) relate to what Jesus was communicating when he cleared out the temple?

Read Mark 11:12-14 and 11:20-21. With everything going on around Him, why did Jesus choose to pick on a fig tree?

What do you think Jesus was saying to his disciples, and all of us, about the spiritual health of the Jewish people at that time--how they excitedly welcomed Him one week and called for his crucifixion the next?

Read Matthew 21:20-22. Jesus was telling us something very important as He and the disciples gazed upon that dead and withered tree. What was His point? For us, today, is this a feel-good motivational message or a grim warning?

How do you view Christian fruitfulness as it relates to people in the world? How does fruitfulness impact evangelism?

What are some things we can do as believers to become more fruitful?