

STUDY GUIDE:

Extraordinary Life Series in the Gospel of Mark

Power of Love | Mark 11

It's Time for a New King On The Block

Just like now, people were anxious, hoping, fearful and restless for a new leader.

What does it mean to consider a leader versus to fully follow that leader? Have you ever had a friend working on a campaign team? Or maybe yourself? What is the difference between someone working on a campaign team versus the average voter that is considering voting for that candidate?

By the way, Ken Blanchard referred to Jim Collins' characteristics of great leaders. In those findings he surprisingly discovered that *resolve* and *humility* were the top qualities.

In what ways have you seen Jesus model these in Mark?

As Jesus entered Jerusalem at Passover, his reputation obviously preceded him. All the excited people, the waving of palm branches, the cloaks laid on the ground before him, and shouts of "Hosanna" (meaning, "save, I pray"). There were kingly expectations going on.

Read Zechariah 9:9.

This was their hope of the new King!

Warrior would have been top on their lists for what they expected in a leader to get their nation back from Roman tyranny.

Now read Mark 11:1-11

Did Jesus seem to know what was going on? In what ways does he demonstrate that he's in control and has a plan?

What happens after all this pomp and shouting? (v. 11) Really, that's it?

The Triumphal Entry?

This text is traditionally called the Triumphal Entry. That is a more appropriate designation for Matt 21:1-11 and John 12:12-19, but scarcely for Mark.

Matthew says, "The whole city was stirred and asked, 'Who is this?' " (21:10).

Luke reports that the city was so electrified that the stones were ready to cry out (19:40). Mark's account is noteworthy for what does *not* happen. The whole scene comes to nothing. Like the seed in the parable of the sower that receives the word with joy but has no root and lasts but a short time (4:6, 16-17), the

crowd disperses as mysteriously as it assembled. Jesus looks around, and then goes back to Bethany with his crew to spend the night in quiet.

Mark is warning against mistaking enthusiasm for faith and popularity for discipleship.

Have you ever seen or felt this yourself?
How is a fan of Jesus different from a disciple of Jesus?

“The most expressed messianic symbol in Jesus’ entry—the riding on a colt like the humble Messiah of Zech 9:9—is short lived in the minds of the crowd. Jesus enters the temple, and having sized it up, he leaves for Bethany with the disciples. Jesus is indeed the Messiah, but he is veiled and unrecognized. Even when he stands at the center of Israel’s faith, he stands alone.”

Edwards, J. R. (2002). *The Gospel according to Mark* (p. 338). Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England.

Within just a few days, their "Hosannas!" would change to ones of "Crucify!" Those who hailed him as a hero would soon reject and abandon him. In many ways the story of the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem is one of contrasts. It is the story of the King who came as a loving and lowly servant on a donkey, not on a prancing stallion, not in royal robes, but in the clothes of the poor and humble. Jesus came not to conquer by force and power as an earthly King, but by love, grace, mercy, and His own sacrifice for His people.

*"All the Kings in history I've known sent their people out to die for them.
I know only one King who died for his people."*

The reality is that the Kingdom that Jesus brought to earth is not a Kingdom of armies and power, but of **love, lowliness, humility** and **servanthood**.

How could a family or a group of friends live out these qualities in our city?
How could you live this way for your neighbors?

As we reflect on Palm Sunday, there is nothing ordinary about it. My hope is that it is an extraordinary time for Jesus to make a triumphant impact on our hearts. He reigns there in peace and love. As followers of Jesus we need to emulate those same attributes on a daily basis as we serve others. If we do, the people we interact with will see Jesus, the true King, living in triumph in each of us. As a result,

we would model the power of love rather than the love of power.