

The Triumphal Entry

¹As they approached Jerusalem and
came to Bethphage and
Bethany
at the Mount of Olives,
Jesus sent two of his disciples,
²saying to them,
"Go to the village ahead of you,
and just as you enter it,
you will find a colt tied there,
which no one has ever ridden.
Untie it and
bring it here.
³If anyone asks you, 'Why are you doing this?'
tell him,
'The Lord needs it and
will send it back here shortly.' "

⁴They went and
found a colt
outside in the street,
tied at a doorway.
As they untied it,
⁵some people standing there asked, "What are you doing, untying that colt?"
⁶They answered
as Jesus had told them to,
and the people let them go.

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

⁹Those who went ahead and
those who followed
shouted,
 "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!"
¹¹Jesus entered Jerusalem and
 went to the temple.
 He looked around
 at everything,
 but since it was already late,
 he went out
 to Bethany
 with the Twelve.

Jesus Clears The Temple

¹²The next day
 as they were leaving Bethany,
 Jesus was hungry.
 ¹³Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf,
 he went
 to find out if it had any fruit.
 When he reached it,
 he found nothing but leaves,
 because it was not the season for figs.
 ¹⁴Then he said
 to the tree,
 "May no one ever eat fruit from you again."
 And his disciples
 heard him say it.

¹⁵On reaching Jerusalem,
Jesus entered the temple area and
began driving out
those who were buying and
selling there.
He overturned the tables of the money changers and
the benches of those selling doves,
¹⁶and would not allow
anyone
to carry merchandise
through the temple courts.

¹⁷And as he taught them,
he said,
"Is it not written:
" 'My house
will be called
a house
of prayer
for all nations'?"
But you
have made it '
a den
of robbers."

¹⁸The chief priests and
the teachers of the law
heard this and
began looking
for a way
to kill him,
for they feared him,
because the whole crowd was amazed
at his teaching.

¹⁹When evening came,
they went out of the city.

The Withered Fig Tree

²⁰In the morning,
as they went along,
they saw the fig tree
withered
from the roots.

²¹Peter remembered
and said to Jesus,
"Rabbi,
look!
The fig tree
you cursed
has withered!"

²²"Have faith
in God,"

Jesus answered.

²³"I tell you the truth,
if anyone

says to this mountain, '

Go, throw yourself into the sea,'

and does not doubt

in his heart

but believes

that what he says will happen,

it will be done for him.

²⁴Therefore I tell you,

whatever you ask for

in prayer,

believe

that you have received it, and

it will be yours.

²⁵And when you stand praying,

if you hold anything

against anyone,

forgive him,

so that your Father in heaven

may forgive you

your sins."

The Authority of Jesus Questioned

²⁷They arrived
again
in Jerusalem,
and while Jesus was walking
in the temple courts,
the chief priests,
the teachers of the law
and the elders came to him.

²⁸"By what authority
are you doing these things?"
they asked.

"And who gave you
authority to do this?"

²⁹Jesus replied,
"I will ask you one question.
Answer me,
and I will tell you
by what authority

I am doing these things.

³⁰John's baptism—
was it from heaven,
or from men?
Tell me!"

³¹They discussed it among themselves
and said,

"If we say, '
From heaven,'
he will ask, '
Then why didn't you believe him?'

³²But if we say, '
From men'...."
(They feared
the people,
for everyone held that
John really was a prophet).

³³So they answered Jesus,
"We don't know."
Jesus said,
"Neither will I tell you
by what authority
I am doing these things."