

REVEALED

An Exposition of the Book of Mark



Expected Yet Unexpected

Mark 11:1-11

Main Idea

Jesus is the expected Messiah.

Overview

- **Jesus is the Expected Messiah**
 - Jesus *specifically* tells his disciples to go find an colt that has never been ridden
 - Why a colt? Because that exactly what has been prophesied
 - Zechariah 9:9 tell us the Israel's coming king would enter Jerusalem on a colt
 - Why one that has never been ridden?
 - Because animals that have never been ridden were reserved for sacred purposes (Nm. 19:2; Dt. 21:3; 1 Sam. 6:7)
 - Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey and in doing so he visually and publically makes a bold claim – I am the Expected Messiah.

- **Jesus, the Expected Messiah, is Divine**
 - Jesus knows exactly what is going to happen before it happens, and the disciples find everything just the way Jesus described it
 - Jesus exercises knowledge that only God himself possesses
 - This is quite common throughout the Gospel of Mark and all the other Gospels as well
 - More importantly, Jesus clearly and explicitly calls himself “Lord”
 - It's exactly what we saw in chapter 1. In verse 3 Mark quotes Isaiah, “*Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.*” In Isaiah, this verse speaks about the Lord God himself coming among his people. But Mark quotes it applying it to Jesus. The implication is that when Jesus comes, the Lord God himself comes.
 - God himself promises to come rescue his people (cf. Ez. 34)...and he does just that in the person of Jesus Christ

- **Jesus, the Expected Messiah, is Humble**
 - Both the means of Jesus entry and the manner of his character is humble
 - This is exactly what the prophecy from Zech. 9:9 proclaimed
 - He is the expected King, but he will work in the most unexpected way
 - Jesus is not a conquering king, but a humble servant...He has come not to be served, but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many (cf. 10:45)

- **Jesus, the Expected Messiah, is Humble**
 - Three times Jesus has predicted his death upon entering Jerusalem (cf. 10:33-34)

- Yet he entered Jerusalem (v. 11)
- Jesus faithfully marches down the short, straight, narrow road to Jerusalem to offer his life up as ransom for many. He faithfully trusts in the plans of God the Father. Less than a week after his “triumphal” entry, Jesus will be hanging upon a cross. Jesus is faithful to do just what he said he would do – die for his people. Jesus is also faithful not just to die for his people, but rise again, just like he said he would.

Questions

Discussion Starter: So much of our world is built on false advertising. Can you think of a commercial on TV or a latest gimmick that promises results, yet fails to return them?

Transition: The world promises things it can't deliver, but God is different and we see that in this passage.

1. What the significance of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a colt that has never been ridden before?
2. What does this tell us about the character of God (i.e. His faithfulness)? What's one promise from God's word that you can hold onto?
3. How in this passage do we see the divinity of Jesus?
4. Why is it important for us to hold to the deity of Christ?
5. What in this passage points to the humility of Jesus?
6. What does this tell us about the character of God?
7. How should this translate into our lives and what are some practical ways we can cultivate humility?
8. What in this passage points to the faithfulness of Jesus?
9. “What matters most is the object of our faith not the size of our faith.” Explain this comment and discuss how it impacts us in times of worry, doubt, and in our prayer life.

Questions for Pursuing Humility

1. Do I confess my sin, specific sins consistently to both God and others?
2. Do I automatically defend myself when people offer constructive criticism?
3. Do others know of my areas of temptation?
4. Do I actively look for and point out grace in other people's lives?

Questions to examine the object of your faith

1. Ultimately, who or what are you trusting in to reconcile you back to God?
2. How often do you find yourself repenting of sins?
 - a. Repentance, continual repentance, is inseparable from true faith.
3. How robust is your prayer life?
 - a. Prayer is an indication of true faith. I recently read this quote by John Knox: “For if the fire be without heat, of the burning lamp without light, then true faith may be without fervent prayer.” Prayer emanates from faith, and faith produces fervent prayer.