

## **Recap of 12/24/23 message by Pastor Chris (Mark 11:1-11):**

- *This familiar passage captures the triumphal entry of Jesus Christ as King entering Jerusalem and the temple. We need to consider Jesus' ironic reception and the misconceptions the people of Israel had regarding who He was and their expectation of the Messiah. First, the crowd. Their excitement was about the miracle worker, the meal provider. When Jesus taught the hard things of what it meant to live in the kingdom of God, they often began to disperse. Second, the pharisees. They wanted a Jesus that would not disturb their religious practices, authority, or glory. They did not want challenges to their understanding of God's ethic and resisted Jesus' teaching at nearly every turn. Third, the zealots. They wanted political upheaval to overthrow Rome. They looked for a military leader to establish a physical earthly kingdom. Fourth, the disciples. The disciples wanted a king that would endorse their visions of grandeur and make them dukes and princes in this new kingdom. In fact, often when Jesus began to share the truths about how this new kingdom would be ushered in, by His sacrifice and servanthood, they quickly asked questions regarding themselves and their future glory.*
- *The hard truth is that we often remake the revealed Son of God Jesus Christ in our own image. We sometimes look at Jesus as a king who is there just to make us feel better or endorse and bless our plans for life. We can make an idol out of a false understanding of who He is and what it means to follow Him. As King of kings, He has authority, and we need to submit to His rule.*
- *So, what kind of king is Jesus? He is the king who brings true peace. He entered Jerusalem upon a donkey, the way in which a king in peace time would enter His kingdom. He's also a king of power and justice, for we know that He will return, and when He does it will be upon a war horse defending His people and upholding the righteous against the unrighteous (Revelation 19:11). He is the king who fulfills prophecy (Zechariah. 9:9), the long-awaited Messiah who was foretold hundreds, even thousands of years earlier. He is a king who knows His people and enters our lives, taking the form of a servant and being tempted in every way, so He can sympathize with our every weakness (Philippians 2:7, Hebrews. 4:15). And He is so much more! We can't reduce Him down to a king we want or prefer, but must continue to ponder His teaching, His call to obedience. We can't miss Him like the people of Israel did in this passage. We must discipline ourselves to bow before our king, to worship in spirit and truth as we learn to follow faithfully the One who bore our sins and sacrificed Himself on our behalf so that all who believe in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.*