

MARCH 24, 2024

"The Wilderness of Heartache"

Scripture: Mark 11:1-11



The Wilderness of HEARTACHE

6th Sunday in Lent • Palm Sunday

AUTHOR

John Mark is the author. He accompanied his cousin, Barnabas, and the apostle Paul on their 1st missionary journey but left at the second stop, returning to Jerusalem. Two years later Barnabas suggested Mark as a traveling companion for their 2nd missionary journey but Paul refused. Barnabas took Mark with him and Paul chose Silas. Paul and Mark reconciled later and became close friends. Mark is also thought to have been a friend of Peter, one of Jesus' twelve disciples. Mark probably wrote this gospel, which is the shortest gospel, between AD 55 and 65. Mark wrote to encourage the Christians in Rome as they experienced oppression and persecution. He also wrote to prove beyond a doubt that Jesus is the Messiah.

CONTEXT

Jesus has predicted his death for the 3rd time as his ministry continues. Jesus and the disciples arrive in Jerusalem where the Passover Festival is about to begin. Huge crowds came to Jerusalem from all over the Roman world for this week long celebration to remember the great exodus from Egypt. (See Exodus 12:37-51)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does Jesus send 2 of his disciples ahead to do?
2. When Jesus rides into Jerusalem, his triumphal entry, what is the crowd's reaction?
3. What do you think the disciples' reaction may have been, seeing the crowd's reaction?
4. Contrast Jesus' arrival to what a king's arrival might have looked like.
5. In verse 9, the people exclaimed, "Hosanna" which means "save now." The people recognized Jesus' arrival as the fulfillment of prophecy. (See Zechariah 9:9) What do you think their expectations were of the Messiah? Did Jesus meet their expectations?
6. Do we sometimes have expectations of how we think God should fix things?
7. As you enter into Holy Week, what are your plans to make this a meaningful week?

ENCOURAGEMENT

As we begin Holy Week we know Jesus' journey to the cross is near, but Easter is coming!

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