

.....
Sunday, Monday, Tuesday (Mark 11)

On this year's Christian calendar Palm Sunday falls on April 5th. Mark the date in your diary. Although most Christians don't give much thought to this special day, it is laden with prophetic significance. Palm Sunday marks the beginning of the Passion Week (the week of Christ's crucifixion), and is also a direct fulfillment of a wonderful prophecy about Christ that was made more than five hundred years before His birth. *Can you guess what it is?*

Following along with Mark, we shall trace the steps of Jesus through the week of His crucifixion. Note that Mark devoted more than one third of his book (chapters 11-16) to the events that took place during these days.

POINTS TO PONDER:

A. SUNDAY – JESUS ENTERS JERUSALEM (V1-11)

- The triumphal entry into Jerusalem is a fulfillment of Zechariah 9:9. This Old Testament prophecy contains four aspects of the character of Christ.
- The people's praises of Jesus ("*Hosanna...Hosanna in the highest*", v9-10) is a fulfillment of Psalm 118:25-26.

B. MONDAY – JESUS CURSES THE FIG TREE AND CLEANSSES THE TEMPLE (V12-19)

- The attitude of Jesus towards the unfruitful fig tree demands our attention. As Christians, our purpose in life is to bear fruit. Are there any "off-seasons" in the Christian life? (See 2Tim 4:2).
- Read John 15:1-16 to discover how you can be more fruitful in your Christian life.

C. TUESDAY – JESUS ANSWERS HIS ENEMIES (V20-33)

- The chief priests, the scribes and the elders would not recognize Christ's authority (v28). They denied His Lordship. They rejected the gospel. In order to be saved, one must **believe** the gospel, **acknowledge** Christ's authority (as the Son of God), and **receive** Him as Lord. *Have you taken these steps of faith? "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name" (Jn 1:12).*

CHALLENGE TO CHANGE:

Complete the following sentence: "My house is a house of..." In Mark 11:17 Jesus called His house a "house of prayer." What is *your* house? Although Jesus intended His house, the temple, to be a house of prayer, it wasn't. Due to compromise, it had become a "den of thieves" (v17b). Take some time to consider God's ideals for your home. What spiritual activities would you like to see taking place in your home every day? Prayer is essential. Would God call your house "a house of prayer"?