

Welcome to Hope Sabbath School—an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. We are continuing a series of studies on The Gospel of Mark. Today's topic: JERUSALEM CONTROVERSIES.

1. The Triumphal Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem

- a) Mark 11:1-6 What lessons can we learn from the preparation for the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem?
- b) Mark 11:7-10 What happened as Jesus entered into Jerusalem riding on a donkey?
- c) What prophecy about Messiah was fulfilled on that day? Zechariah 9:9
- d) Why did Jesus permit the adoration of the crowd when for years he had tried to minimize publicity?
- e) How did those living in Jerusalem react? Matthew 21:10-11
- f) How did the religious leaders react? Luke 19:39-40

2. The cursed fig tree and the cleansed temple

- a) Mark 11:12-14, 20-21 What lesson was Jesus wanting to teach through the cursing of the fig tree?
- b) Mark 11:15-17 How does this second cleaning of the temple compare to the first cleansing at the beginning of the ministry of Jesus? (John 2:13-16)
- c) How did the religious leaders react to this rebuke by Jesus? Mark 11:18, 27-33
- d) Share a time when you were convicted by the Holy Spirit that your life was out of harmony with the will of God. How did you respond?

3. The parable of the vinedressers

- a) Mark 12:1-9 What message was Jesus conveying in the parable of the vinedressers?
- b) Mark 12:10-11 What scripture did Jesus quote? What claim was He making? (See Psalm 118:22-29)
- c) How was this parable both a warning and an earnest appeal?
- d) What was the reaction of the religious leaders to this parable and declaration of Jesus? Mark 12:12

4. Attempts to trap Jesus

- a) Mark 12:13-17 What trap did the Pharisees set for Jesus and what can we learn from His response?
- b) Mark 12:18-27 What trap did the Sadducees set for Jesus and what can we learn from His response?

5. An honest seeker after truth

- a) Who was impressed by the way Jesus responded to the Pharisees and Sadducees who were trying to trap Jesus? Mark 12:28
- b) What concise answer did Jesus give to this honest seeker after truth? Mark 12:29-31
- c) Mark 12:32-33 What can we learn about this scribe from his response to Jesus?
- d) How did Jesus affirm this scribe? Mark 12:34
- e) How was this interaction between Jesus and the scribe a witness to those present and also to us?

