

The Last Week of Christ

Text: [Mark 10-11](#)

Introduction:

If you knew that next week about this time you were going to die, you knew where it was going to happen, you knew who it was that would make it happen, and you knew how it would happen, what would you do? Would you go there and look around? Or would you avoid the place? Would you talk to the people you knew would be involved? Or would you avoid them? Would you do everything you could to change the event? Or would you walk headlong into it?

Jesus of course knew these things and did not avoid them, but continued to walk the same path he had been walking, saying the same things he had been saying, and seemingly was not affected (until just before it) by what he knew to be the outcome.

Larry and J.W. and I plan to take the next 3 Sunday nights and declare to you the last week of Jesus life before his crucifixion. One thing to keep in mind is that there 2-2.5 million people coming to Jerusalem for the Passover. They came for basically 3 reasons: 1. To See Jesus. 2. To be healed. 3. There was a lot of curiosity and tension about the Scribes and Pharisees and their turmoil with Jesus.

Let me begin by giving you a brief description of how we organized this information: Tonight we will start in [Mark chapters 10 & 11](#). [Mark 11](#) begins with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. The reason All of us can know that Jesus came into Jerusalem on a donkey on the Sunday before his crucifixion, so, [Mark 11:12](#) says "On the following day when they came to Bethany..." That gives us a time stamp, or time marker to let us know what happened and when it happened. There are others and you can read the gospel accounts for yourself and find them. I encourage you to do this and put it all in order yourself. Keep in mind the other gospels don't seem to be as concerned with the chronological order in which things happened like Mark was. So, you have to constantly compare them with Mark.

Some of the things that pertain to these events happened well before the last week of Christ, so let's take a brief look at some of those things before going forward.

This week was not unexpected to Jesus. He knew what was going to happen and when and where and by whom his death would occur. Part of it is because Jesus was involved in the planning of it all even before the foundation of the earth:

[Ephesians 1:4](#) even as he **chose us in him before the foundation of the world**, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love

Part of it because of the prophecies that these things would occur, Read [Psalm 22](#) for yourself!

So, on their way into Jerusalem he reminded them of what he had said to them several times before: Look at [Mark 10:32-34](#)

KNOWING this, how would you respond to James and John in [v. 35-40](#) Knowing of your death, how would you respond when the other disciples started fighting over who would be greatest in the kingdom? [v. 41-45](#). Jesus continued to patiently teach them along the way. He also knew one would betray him and all of them would abandon him, and he would be alone to face his accusers and executors. Yet, he again, he continued to teach them

Would you stop and have compassion on Blind Bartimaeus? [Mark 10:46-52](#) The Blind man was causing such a ruckus that some tried to quiet him and stop him from bothering Jesus. But Jesus stopped them and called Bartimaeus to come before him. Jesus asked, "What do you want

me to do for you?" And the blind man said to him, "Rabbi, let me recover my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Go your way, your faith has made you well."

It was about this time that Jesus went to Bethany to raise Lazarus from the dead and here is the response of the Israelite leaders: Turn over to [John 11:47-53](#) Now add the fact that [John 12:9-11](#) says that many were following Jesus because of Lazarus, so the chief priests were planning to put him to death as well. Do you think that Jesus knew this would happen? Do you think it's possible that's why Jesus wept in verse 35? Why put Lazarus through all of this? Jesus **did** love him.

What happened next is a unique event in the life of Jesus. All the years of his life, he had never drawn attention to himself. In fact, he often told people, "do not tell anyone of this" after healing them. You might think "Well, maybe that time when he was twelve in the temple caused some to raise their eyebrows." This time however, Jesus intentionally drew attention to himself. You see, this was a special day to the Jews and for God's plan. **It was the 10th day of Nisan**. It was the day that each family in the congregation of Israel would pick their Passover Lamb. [Exodus 12:3-6](#) Jesus knew, even though the Jewish leaders did not know, He would be their Passover Lamb.

John the baptizer knew it when he told his disciples, "Behold the lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world." [John 1:29](#) and Jesus knew it. But Jesus also knew this, that as he paraded himself down the street, they would not take him into custody until HE chose for them to do it. All week long, in and out of their sight, in and out of Jerusalem. Jesus was in control. It would happen "at the right time." [Romans 5:6](#)

[Mark 11:11](#) it was late; [v. 12](#) On the following day (that is MONDAY)

Knowing that you would be crucified, would it bother you when you realize you are hungry that a fig tree did not produce any fruit? [Mark 11:12-14](#) Do think Jesus was irritable and cursed the fig tree? I know most of us would be. (Tuesday it would be withered.) Or could it be another lesson Jesus was trying to teach his disciples about being prepared and bearing fruit as a child of God? Based on all the other things that Jesus did, that's what I would think. Jesus continued to teach and prepare His disciples in spite of the tremendous tension building not only in himself, but in Jerusalem that would in just a few more days would result in his death.

Was Jesus just irritable when he cleansed the temple? Or was He fulfilling another scripture? [Mark 11:15-19](#); Let's read from [John 2:13-22](#) do you see the purpose with which Jesus did these thing? That tells us something about Jesus: He truly did plan all these things and was not going to give up on His plan and everything he did was a constant reminder of His love for us. Notice [Matthew 21:12-17](#) adds to this story that he took time to heal the blind and the lame. [Luke 19:45-48](#) adds that while the scribes and the Pharisees were trying to find some way to kill him, he continued during this time to teach anyone who would listen.

His concern was not for himself, it was for people, he wanted them right with God. I'm not sure where [Matthew 23](#) fits in to the time line, but it is proof Jesus even wanted the scribes and the Pharisees right with God.

[Matthew 23:37](#) "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not!"

Even though you and I might have taken the straightest highway out of there, Jesus had been, for too long, planning what was going to happen in the next few days to leave. He had too much invested, He had to finish it.