

The Road to Atonement: Jesus Enters Jerusalem

Mark 12:1-12 (and Mark 10:45, Matthew 26:26-28)

The Battle of Cold Harbor and a remarkable discovery

Beginners: What is Palm Sunday about? *A plant, an animal, and a city.*

A plant: the palm tree

An animal: a young donkey

A city: Jerusalem

Christology ladder review from last week:

- Peter's Great Confession affirmed the 3rd rung: Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God (i.e. his *uniqueness*). Jesus then reveals he's going to die, beginning to lift his disciples' understanding to the 4th rung.

The Parable of the Tenants (Mark 12:1-12): told inside Jerusalem

- An allegorical parable, often hard to understand. Sometimes Jesus interpreted them privately. (See sermon #4, Metaphors.)
- But Jesus' enemies were smart enough to figure out this one. It was *against them*.
 - Including: the Son, the "beloved son," = Jesus. Rung 3. And they kill him. Rung 4.
- Water faucet analogy: Jesus opened and let the information flow! *It was time to die.*
 - In their rage they will only fulfill Jesus' words. They will kill the son.

Skeptics: Did Jesus *really* predict his death? Most predictions were private, after all. How convenient.

- Keep in mind that predicting his death publicly, clearly, wouldn't have been a good idea. 'Here's a crazy guy with a death wish.' (More on this in sermon #11.)
- *Who Moved the Stone?* by Frank Morrison, a skeptical lawyer
 - Morrison was impressed with the testimony at Jesus' trial... but why?

Strugglers: But what does his death mean? (for me and my life)

Jesus' simple explanation:

- (1) It's a "ransom" (a payment; see Mark 10:45)
- (2) For the "forgiveness of sins" (see Matt 26:26-28)
And that's a covenant
(an unbreakable promise to the death)

Next week: *Life wins!*

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. Read The Parable of the Tenants (Mark 12:1-12). Jesus summarizes so much of the history of Israel, especially the history of persecuted prophets who brought God's Word. Why are prophets so controversial and so mistreated? Often priests in Israel weren't treated this way! Why the difference?
2. Read The Triumphal Entry in Luke 19:28-40. Jesus thinks the praise is appropriate, that He is getting his due. Do you? Let your heart and mouth rejoice that Jesus received this acknowledgement and praise.
3. Why the cross? Read the ransom saying (Mark 10:45) and the words of institution (Matt 26:26-28). Meditate on what these words mean, **and write one sentence to God that serves as your response to Him and to these words.**