

## ***LIFE OF A SERVANT***

**The Messiah**

**Mark 11:1–33**

*“Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”* Mark 11:9

### **Day 1: Read Mark 11:1–10.**

1. Jesus had been to Jerusalem before. What unusual plan does he have for his entry on this spring Sunday?
2. By his method of entry, what is Jesus deliberately saying about himself? (See 1 Kings 1:32–35; 2 Kings 9:13; and Zechariah 9:9.)
3. How do the people of the city show they get the message? What does verse 10 tell us about how well the people understand Christ’s mission?
4. Jesus has often silenced people who called him the Messiah. Why not today?

### **Day 2: Read Mark 11:11–19.**

5. Suggest a couple of reasons why Jesus would spend his nights two miles outside Jerusalem in Bethany. (John 11:57; 12:1–3)
6. Describe what Jesus did during his visit to the temple that starts in verse 15. (See also John 2:13–17.)
7. Note: the “temple area” is the court of the Gentiles—the only part of the temple where godly non-Jews could come to worship. What has provoked Christ’s anger? (Look at the contexts of the verses quoted by Jesus [Is. 56:6–7 and Jer. 7:11]).
8. What makes Jesus’ expression of anger appropriate? Contrast it with your own experience with expressing anger.

### **Day 3: Read Mark 11:20–21.**

9. What is the effect of Christ’s tirade at the temple on the religious leaders? On the people?
10. What continues to amaze the people about Christ’s teaching? (Recall Mark 1:22.)

11. An account of a fig tree serves as bookends for the temple cleansing. Why does Jesus curse the fig tree? What is the result of the curse?
12. What connection do you see between the cursing of the fig tree and the temple cleansing?

**Day 4: Read Mark 11:20–25.**

13. What connection between faith and prayer does Jesus emphasize?
14. Do Jesus' words in these verses contradict his reply to James and John's request in the last chapter? (Review 10:35–40.) Explain your answer.
15. According to verse 25, what other element is essential to effective prayer?
16. Does God's requirement that we forgive others apply only after we have received an apology? Why then do we forgive people who have hurt us? (Read the parable that Jesus tells in Mt. 18:21–35.)
17. Who does God want you to forgive? Will you obey him?

**Day 5: Read Mark 11:27–33.**

18. What questions do the religious leaders fire at Jesus in the crowded temple courts?
19. What not-so-hidden motive do they have for interrogating Jesus? (Recall verse 18.)
20. Why does Jesus reply as he does?
21. Why do the religious leaders balk at answering Jesus' question? (Look at John 1:19–34 to see what John announced about Jesus.) How are their designs against Jesus thwarted?
22. What blocks their ability to receive and respond to Christ's message? (Mk. 2:17; 1 Jn. 1:8–10)