

The Beginning of the End

“Case For Christ”, part 37, Insights from Mark 11:1-11
Pastor Bob Johnson, October 9th, 2022, GPC

The Text in Context:

(Zechariah 9:9, Psalm 118:25-26, Luke 19:38, John 12:13)

The Jesus They Wanted:

(Matthew 21:1-11, Luke 19:28-44, John 12:12-19)

- a Jesus who stopped ...
- a Jesus who defeated ...

The Jesus That Showed Up:

- a Jesus who solved ...
(1 Timothy 2:5-6, 1 John 2:2)
- a Jesus who defeated ...
(Hebrews 1:3; 10:14, Romans 6:6, 2 Corinthians 3:17)
(2 Timothy 1:7, Galatians 5:16-17, Galatians 5:22-23)

How to not end up like “those guys”:

- 1. Be ready to S _____**
(Isaiah 55:8-9, 1 Corinthians 13:12)
- 2. Be ready to S _____**
(John 12:14-16, Proverbs 3:5-6)

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This Week's Discussion Guide

Welcome to our seventh week of our Fall Small Group Season at GPC! Our study and discussion this fall will be based on our current Sunday series at GPC called, "Case For Christ".

In this series, we are slowly unpacking the Gospel of Mark. Each week we will read and reflect on a passage from Mark's gospel and discuss ways we can apply what we reflect on to our daily lives.

It is our prayer at GPC for our Sundays and small groups to provide the encouragement we all need to support each other as we desire to grow closer to God and build friendships as part of our vision at GPC to raise up committed Christ followers in a healthy church community.

Getting Started:

Each week, we typically start out with a few lighter questions to get us warmed up :).

In Mark 11:1-10, we finally come to the beginning of the end of Mark's gospel. Jesus finally arrives in Jerusalem where a lot will happen in the next 7 days including his crucifixion and resurrection. Coming to Jerusalem was something Jesus has been talking about and trying to prepare his disciples since chapter 8.

Speaking of something that you knew was coming and eventually finally arrived, what has been something that you were looking forward to for at least a few months, maybe a few years?

When it finally happened, how did it meet with your expectations?

When he Jesus entered Jerusalem, he chose to ride in on a donkey which was a fulfillment of OT prophesy (Zechariah 9:9). Speaking of animals, what memories do you have of being close to an animal or two ... that bring positive memories ... or not so positive?

As Jesus entered Jerusalem, a crowd gathered just outside the east gate to cheer for him and honor him as their Messiah. Speaking of a cheering crowd, when have you been in a crowd where you were part of cheering for someone or a group of people?

If you could attend a sporting event or concert or performance where you would have an opportunity to do some cheering ... what would it be?

Reviewing and Reflecting on last Sunday's Passage:

Let's read the main passage from last Sunday. (Mark 11:1-11)

After reading this passage and looking back on our notes from Sunday, was there a particular thought, verse or comment that caught your attention, challenged you or raised a question for you?

Digging Deeper:

1. In the last section of Mark beginning in chapter 11, we will see that the Jesus the people wanted and expected was not the Jesus that actually showed up.

Back then and today, the Jesus we get isn't always the Jesus we want. As mentioned last Sunday, this could lead at times to some stretching of our faith.

In following verses, how do the writers of Psalms speak to the fact that God doesn't always move in the ways we expect?

What other insights can we observe from the following three passages?

Psalm 25:15-22, Psalm 13:1-6, Psalm 90:1-17

How do you typically respond when you are surprised or disappointed, either with God's response, or your perceived lack of his response?

How do you typically respond when it's almost as though God hasn't heard your pleas and requests?

2. In Hebrews 11:32-40, what examples stand out to you that can remind us that life (even when we trust and follow God's promptings) doesn't always turn out the way we want it to?

As we reflect on these 'heroes of faith', what insights can strengthen our faith so we can focus on God's love and care in spite of the struggle to see things more clearly?

3. The last application from last Sunday was to be ready to step out in faith when God calls us to trust Him.

One of the classic stories regarding stepping out in faith is when Peter walked on water ... at least for a few steps.

Let's read Matthew 14:22-33 and share some insights regarding God's character, His desire for us to mature, and insights when we are invited to step out in faith.

Can you think of a time when God invited you to take a stretching step of faith?

How did you know it was God's prompting?

What did you learn or how did you grow from that experience?

Wrapping Up:

What is an application from what we read or discussed together that you would like to practice in the coming days? Is there anything that came up from this week's sermon or discussion that you would like prayer for? Is there anything else on your heart that you would like to express prayer for?