### Mark

## Chapter 11

1Now, as they were getting close to JeruSalem (they were near BethPhage and BethAny on the Mount of Olives), he sent two of his disciples ahead 2and told them:  
  
 ‘Go into the village across from us, and as soon as you enter you’ll find a colt that’s tied, which no man has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. 3And if anyone asks why you’re doing this, just tell him that the Lord needs it, and he will immediately let you take it.’  
  
4So they went and found the colt tied outside of a door on a side street, and they untied it. 5Then when some of those who were standing there asked why they were untying the colt, 6[the disciples] told them what Jesus had said, and they let them take it.  
  
7Thereafter, they brought the colt to Jesus, so they put a robe over it and he mounted it.  
  
8Then many [of his disciples] started spreading their robes out over the road, while others were laying down palm fronds that they’d cut from trees in the fields. 9And those who walked in front of him and behind him started shouting:  
  
 ‘May [God] save him! Praise the one who comes in the Name of Jehovah!  
 10Praise the Kingdom of our Father David that’s about to arrive!  
 Save him, we pray, from the heights!’  
  
11Well from there, [Jesus] rode into JeruSalem. [And when he got there], he went into the Temple and looked around. But because it was late, he just [went back] to BethAny with the 12.  
  
  
  
12Then the next morning (as he was leaving BethAny), because he noticed some leaves on a fig tree, 13and because he was hungry, he went over to see if he could find some [fruit]. But when he got there, he found nothing but leaves, because it was [a little early in the year] for figs.  
  
14So [Jesus] said to [the tree] (and his disciples heard [him say] this):  
  
 ‘May nobody eat fruit from you for the rest of the age!’  
  
15Well, from there, they traveled on into JeruSalem.  
  
  
Then [Jesus] entered the Temple... And started throwing out those who were buying and selling! He also pushed over the money-changer’s tables and the seats of those who sold doves… 16And he wouldn’t allow anyone to carry things through the Temple!  
  
17He kept instructing them and saying:  
  
 ‘Although it is written:  
  
 ‘My house will be called a House of Prayer for all nations...’  
  
 ‘...you’ve turned it into a den of thieves!’  
  
18And when the Chief Priests and Scribes heard about this, they started looking for ways to destroy him. However, they were afraid of him, because his teaching always amazed the crowds.  
  
19Then (since it was late), they left the city.  
  
  
  
20And as they were returning early the [next] morning, [the disciples] noticed that the fig tree had become all withered up from its roots. 21So, because he remembered what Jesus had said to it, Peter pointed this out and said to him:  
  
 ‘Rabbi, look! The fig tree that you cursed has withered!’  
  
22And Jesus said:  
  
 ‘You must have faith in God. 23For I tell you the truth: If you’d say to this mountain, Rise and be thrown into the sea… And if you did it without any doubts in your heart but had total faith, whatever you say will happen, will in fact happen!  
  
 24‘This is why I’ve told you that if you believe that you’ll receive anything you ask for in prayer, you’ll receive it.  
  
 25‘However, as you stand there praying, you must [also remember to] forgive anything that others may have done to you, so that your Father in the heavens will forgive your errors.’ 26But if you don’t forgive others, your Father in heaven won’t forgive your sins. [spurious, copied from Matthew 6:15]  
  
  
27Well, after they got back to JeruSalem, and as Jesus was walking around in the Temple, the Chief Priests, Scribes, and elders all came up to him 28and asked:  
  
 ‘Who told you that you could do these things… Who gave you the authority?’  
  
29And Jesus replied:  
  
 ‘I’m going to ask you a question, and if you answer me, I’ll tell you where I got the authority to do these things!  
  
 30‘Did John’s immersion come from heaven or from men? Tell me!’  
  
31So they started reasoning among themselves and saying:  
  
 ‘If we say it was from heaven, he’ll ask: Then why didn’t you believe him? 32But if we say it was from men…!’  
  
[You see,] they were afraid of the crowd, since everyone [around] really believed that John was a Prophet.  
  
33So they told Jesus:  
  
 ‘We don’t know.’  
  
And Jesus said:  
  
 ‘Then I won’t tell you where I got the authority to do these things.’