



LESSON 116 MARK 11:1-6

1. And when they came nigh to Jerusalem, unto Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount of Olives, he sendeth forth two of his disciples, 2 And saith unto them, Go your way into the village over against you: and as soon as ye be entered into it, ye shall find a colt tied, whereon never man sat; loose him, and bring him. 3 And if any man say unto you, Why do ye this? say ye that the Lord hath need of him; and straightway he will send him hither. 4 And they went their way, and found the colt tied by the door without in a place where two ways met; and they loose him. 5 And certain of them that stood there said unto them, What do ye, loosing the colt? 6 And they said unto them even as Jesus had commanded: and they let them go.

1. What time of the year is this? What feast day was near? (Matt 26:2) What day of the week was it?
2. Bethphage and Bethany were what?
3. Why did Jesus tell the disciples to get the colt? (b) How did He know where the colt would be and the details of the future meeting? (c) Was He telling them to steal the animal?
4. What does this passage teach you about your Father's provision for you?

Possible answers

1. Springtime; passover; Sunday. This was the start of the week that would end with Jesus' death on the cross and His resurrection from the grave.
2. Villages near Jerusalem. (v 2) We would call them the suburbs. Bethany, two miles east of Jerusalem, was the town of Lazarus, Martha, and Mary (John 11:1).

In the Bible, names sometime give us revelation. "Bethphage" means house of unripened figs. This gave the idea of fruit that would eventually be harvested, but not now. Bethphage represents the remnant of Israel that will eventually turn to the Lord. Read Romans 9-11.

"Bethany" means house of dates. The righteous are compared to date palms. Read Psalm 1:1-3, 92:12-14. Date fruit is symbolic of victory and present harvest. Bethany in one sense represented those who were believers in Jesus' time.

Olives (as in the Mount of Olives) represent the oil of the Holy Spirit, by which God would make the present fruit or the beginning of the kingdom of God on earth (Jesus' disciples) into the catalyst to produce future spiritual fruit in Israel.

3. The Holy Spirit told Him to do that. The Holy Spirit intended for Jesus to fulfill the Old Testament scripture of Zechariah 9:9, concerning the King-Messiah. Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and

having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.

(b) Jesus had the spiritual gift of the word of knowledge (1 Cor 12-14). The Holy Spirit told Him specific information that He would not have known on His own: where the colt would be, tied on a city street, not in a pasture; that it had never been ridden; even the question that might be asked.

Jesus relied on what the Holy Spirit revealed to Him. Remember, although He was God the Son in the flesh, He could not operate here as God, that is, He could not use the powers of His Godhood, His omniscience, His omnipotence, etc. On earth He was required to operate as Man, using the powers to which any godly man had access: the Holy Spirit, prayer, spiritual gifts, scripture, etc. He did this in order to show us what our redeemed lives could be, when lived under the leadership of the Holy Spirit and the Lordship of Christ.

(c) No. No doubt, the owner was a friend of Jesus and had told Him that, whenever He needed anything, just to help Himself. We know that there was no protest after the observers heard that it was the Lord Who wanted to use the colt. Obviously, they knew of Whom the disciples spoke and were agreeable. A similar incident happened later in Matt 26:17-19, when Jesus borrowed the use of a room for the passover feast.

4. Our heavenly Father will provide for us just as He did for Jesus. He loves us and He's a good Father Who provides for His children. Read Psalm 23 and put your name in it: " The Lord is ____'s Shepherd and ____ shall not lack," etc. Read it till you believe it without doubt.

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