

Triumphant Entry, Mark 11, Part 3

Welcome

Intro: Surfing- you catch the waves, not make them. There is a swell coming. Pray

Series Intro: **Mark 11:8-10**

- **Team, Coach, Mission, and Obstacles**
- **Dream, Failure, Redemption and Miracles!**

1. Dream

Explain: The disciples entered Jerusalem with a dream. For almost 600 years, the Jews have been oppressed by the Babylonians, Persians, Greeks and now the Romans. As they entered the city, they probably thought, this is our city. Jerusalem is the city of David. This was home to the temple and the center of Jewish religious life. For hundreds of years the prophets foretold a day when the messiah would come and restore the glory of Israel:

- **Zechariah 14:** says the Messiah will come in power, stand on the Mount of Olives, the mountain will split apart, and he establish God's kingdom on earth.
- **Isiah 65:17-25:** says the Messiah will create a new heaven and a new earth, where suffering and death are eliminated.
- **Ezekiel 36-39:** says the Messiah will restore Israel, unify the 12 tribes, and pour out His Spirit on all flesh.
- **Amos 9:11-15:** says the Messiah will restore the "tabernacle of David" and establish the Kingdom of Israel.

Mark 10:37, "When you sit on your glorious throne, we want to sit in places of honor next to you, one on your right hand and one on your left."

They entered Jerusalem full of faith and expectation. Surrounded by 200k Jews. All Jesus had to do was reveal himself, the people would follow. Jesus would soon be king! They had a dream!

A dream is a powerful motivator.

- **Middle school:** "Allen, if you work at it, I think you could play college football."
- **What is your dream?** First person in your family to go to college, marriage/kids/family, dream of a particular career.
- **Dr. King:** "I have a dream (8) that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

When Tina and I came to Greensboro, 25 years ago, we had a dream!

- Dream of planting my life in **one city** to serve one church.
- People could **meet Jesus** and actually learn to **walk** with Him
- People would be **lifted, encouraged, strengthened** and empowered
- Place that would value **young people**...for me growing up...
- Place that was serious about the **mission**.... sending capacity over seating capacity
- **A diverse place** where everyone felt seen, known, and loved
- **Campuses** around our city, **everyone** in our city would hear the good news

God has a Dream- Heaven on earth! Gen 1-2, Matthew 6, Rev 21-22

Apply: That is why the church exists. When I begin to live for His Dream, My Dream, the role I am to play begins to come into focus. When we pursue our dreams, we experience failure along the way.

2. Failure

Explain: Have you ever seen a championship parade? **(Picture)** You know a couple days after a professional sports team wins the championship. This is what Jerusalem looked like. Jesus and the disciple come into the city and *We Are the Champions*, is playing in the background. They entered the city with big dreams but in just a few days Jesus is dead. **(Picture)** It was a shocking turn of events. **Often, while in our pursuit of our dreams, we fail:**

- **Thomas Edison**, failed 1000 times before creating a lightbulb.
- **Walt Disney** was fired from a newspaper for lacking creativity.
- **Steven Spielberg** was rejected from film school three times
- **Oprah Winfrey** was fired from her job as a news anchor, she was unfit for TV
- **Albert Einstein** was labeled mentally slow as a child
- **J.K. Rowling** (12) and **Dr. Seuss** (27) were rejected by multiple publishers
- **Henry Ford**, his first two automobile companies failed
- **Steve Jobs** was fired from Apple before returning years later and making Apple one of the most successful companies in the world.

Do not fear failure, it is a necessary step on the road to success. Most people never try because they are afraid to fail. I say, swing for the fence. If you fail, failure will become your teacher. Learn from your failure and you will eventually succeed.

Life Greatest Lesson: Failure is not fatal!

Explain: On Saturday, all the disciples were overwhelmed with sorrow, confusion, fear, and uncertainty. How could this have possibly happened. How could Jesus be dead. We were convinced he was the messiah. **They had failed.** However, one day later, early Sunday morning, everything changed. Death was swallowed up by victory! O death, where is your sting! Jesus was alive and because Jesus is alive, we will live and reign with Him forever!

Apply: Have you ever failed? If your answer to that question is no, you probably are not trying hard enough. I have failed many times and God has redeemed my failures.

3. Redemption

Explain: Redemption, Biblically speaking, is God's work of bringing something good out of something bad. What could have been worse, than watching Jesus be tortured, crucified and die a slow painful death alone. However, what the religious establishment, what Rome, what the Devil meant for evil, God turned for good. What appeared to be the worst moment in history became the best moment in history.

We have all had this experience to a degree. If I were to ask you, what is the most important lesson you have learned in life. Almost without exception, we learned those lessons through what I'm calling failure.

We have to be careful. When we fail, when we experience pain, or loss, we have to be careful who becomes our teacher.

- **My dad left, "I am on my own and if it is going to happen, it is up to me."** That's what the Devil wanted me to believe. That lie dominated me most of my life. What I know today is this, I was never alone, God was always present and it was not up to me. God has done more than I could do. God has exceeded my expectations.
- For some of you, the way you live your life, is based on a lie the Devil sold you, you believed it, and you are tormented by it.
- **2 Corinthians 10:4-5**, "for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but ^[a]divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. ⁵ *We are* destroying arguments and all arrogance raised against the knowledge of God, and *we are* taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ"
- **Romans 12:2, Hebrews 4:12**

Illustrate: Peter's denial- Jesus loves me, believes in me and refuses to give up on me. I will live for Him!

Argue: **Romans 8:28-29**

Apply: Failure is not fatal. There is something to learn in every failure, every pain, and every loss. Refuse to play the victim. Open your heart and allow God to redeem your life. Every time you fail, remember you are one step closer to victory!

4. Miracles

Explain: I do not know how many times I have heard Christians express frustration, anger, disappointment or confusion when they did not get the miracle they wanted. They are good people, they love God, they go to church, they read their Bibles but when something goes wrong, they feel like God never shows up.

I understand. I have felt that way and asked that question many times.

However, my life has been full of miracles. Big ones and little ones. **John 15:7**

Has God always done what I wanted Him to do, when I wanted Him to do it. Of course not. He does not follow me; I am following Him. When you follow Jesus, you will be amazed by the miracles. You will be so amazed by what He does, you will not obsess over what he chooses not to do.

Just enough Jesus to:

- Get into heaven but not enough to experience Heaven on earth.
- Bless my plans but not enough to change them.
- Wear a cross but not enough to carry one.
- Leave inspired on Sunday but not enough to impact Monday

If you will honestly wake up each day, attempting to know and obey God's will, to live in His presence, you will be amazed by all the miracles God performs during the course of your life. You will see God! This is the life we want!

Team, Coach, Mission, Obstacle, Dream, Failure, Redemption, Miracles!

Invitation