

# Palm Sunday

## “A Life of Priority”

Mark 11:1-25

### Finishing Strong By Prioritizing Well:

#### **1. Jesus had a priority to remain \_\_\_\_\_ . (Mark 11:1-7)**

Jesus was God and could have done anything He wanted, and yet He humbled Himself to riding on a donkey as opposed to a stallion and eventually being murdered on a cross. Prideful people cannot do anything in God's power because they have not learned to rely on Him! They do everything in their own power and for their own glory. Jesus gave us the ultimate example of humility although He was the one person on the planet who didn't have to!

#### **2. Jesus had a priority to bring \_\_\_\_\_ . (Mark 11:8-10)**

“Hosanna” meant, “Save, please!” It was a cry to God for help. “Help, save me!” The overall theme of the Bible is God being glorified through the redemption of mankind, which is through the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus prioritized His life around the salvation of mankind as can be seen through His Words and activities throughout the gospels.

#### **3. Jesus had a priority to \_\_\_\_\_ and to \_\_\_\_\_ His people. (Mark 11:11-19)**

Jesus goes into the temple, the place where the worship of God should have been thriving, and he finds no heartbeat for worship at all.

#### **4. Jesus had a priority to \_\_\_\_\_ the Father for the seemingly \_\_\_\_\_ . (Mark 11:20-25)**

Jesus communicates a very simple message to His disciples that they are not to miss. “Have faith in God.” This is the way to live! This is the way to have life that is full, rich, and meaningful. You must trust that the living God knows what He is doing, believe what He says, and obey what He commands. It is then He will enrich us, flow through us, and make us a fruitful person.

## **Food for Thought:**

### **1. The priority to remain humble (Mark 11:1-7):**

- In what ways did Jesus model humility in His life? (See John 13:1-20 and Philippians 2:1-11)
- Why is humility such a key when it comes to making eternal impacts for the Kingdom of God?

### **2. The priority to bring the message of salvation (Mark 11:8-10):**

- In what ways do you see Jesus prioritizing His life around bringing the message of salvation to people? (Think of examples throughout the gospels and jot them down)
- What are some practical ways you can prioritize your life around bringing the message of salvation to the people you live around?
- What has kept you from living out this priority in the past and how will you deal with those roadblocks?

### **3. The priority to prod and purify ourselves (Mark 11:11-19):**

- Jesus was disgusted with the grand outward appearance of religiosity, but the dead hearts of His people in Israel. What does His response teach us regarding how we worship today (both in church and throughout the week)?
- In what ways have our churches in America today become a bit like the Temple in Jesus' day?
- How do we make sure that doesn't happen at CBC as a whole and in our individual lives?

### **4. The priority to trust the Father with the impossible (Mark 11:20-25):**

- What is something that God has called you to, that in your eyes, seems impossible?
- What are some of the things God has called His people to throughout Scripture that seemed impossible and how did His faithfulness to complete it encourage you?

## Series: *Finishing Strong (Holy Week)*

### “A Life Ruled by Love”

Mark 12:28-44 (Tuesday)

#### I. The \_\_\_\_\_ of a life ruled by love:

##### A. Loving God with all your \_\_\_\_\_. (Mark 12:30, 38-44)

The heart here means loving the Lord with sincerity and not only outward appearance.

##### B. Loving God with all your \_\_\_\_\_. (Mark 12:30, 44)

Jesus says we are to love God with the most important part of who we are. We are to dedicate everything to Him and become consumed with seeing Him glorified and lifted up.

##### C. Loving God with all your \_\_\_\_\_. (Mark 12:30, 38-44)

Our thought life is to be consumed with loving God because of the knowledge we have gained through His Word in regards to what He has done on our behalf.

##### D. Loving God with all your \_\_\_\_\_.

This carries with it the idea of doing everything I do with an eye on how I can honor the Lord with it. This means that whether I am performing a task at home, at work, at school, at church, in the community, or wherever I may be I am doing it not for the result or the accolades, but to please, honor, and glorify the Lord.

##### E. Loving others as \_\_\_\_\_.

Just as you take great care of yourself you should take great care of others. Make sure you love them in word and deed to such a point that they feel loved and cared for spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and physically.

#### II. The \_\_\_\_\_ of a life ruled by love:

##### A. A life of Christlikeness will be \_\_\_\_\_. (Mark 12:41-44)

The poor widow most likely didn't have any theological training or Bible classes she had attended, yet she knew enough about God that it caused her to love Him in a deep and sacrificial way!

##### B. All the laws of God will be \_\_\_\_\_. (Mark 12:29-31;

##### Matthew 22:40)

We see in Matthew's account that Jesus says we don't have to worry about trying to be technical rule keepers, we need to be sold out God

and people lovers and in doing so all the laws of God end up being fulfilled in our lives.

### **III. The \_\_\_\_\_ of a life ruled by love:**

#### **A. A life without \_\_\_\_\_ . (Mark 12:38-44)**

Everything the scribes and religious leaders did brought attention to who they were. Yet, the attention they received from Jesus was rebuke. Everything the widow did brought attention to who God was and none to herself. Yet, the attention she received from Jesus was praise.

#### **B. A life of personal \_\_\_\_\_ . (Mark 12:29-31, 41-44)**

Whether we truly love God and others unconditionally is shown by our actions.

### **Food for Thought:**

\*Let's explore the concepts of loving God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.

#### **1. Loving God with all our heart entails loving Him with sincerity.**

- How do we at times love God hypocritically?
- How do we prevent that type of life and not end up like the scribes and religious leaders that did everything for outward show?

#### **2. Loving God with all your soul means a total dedication to the Lord of all that you are.**

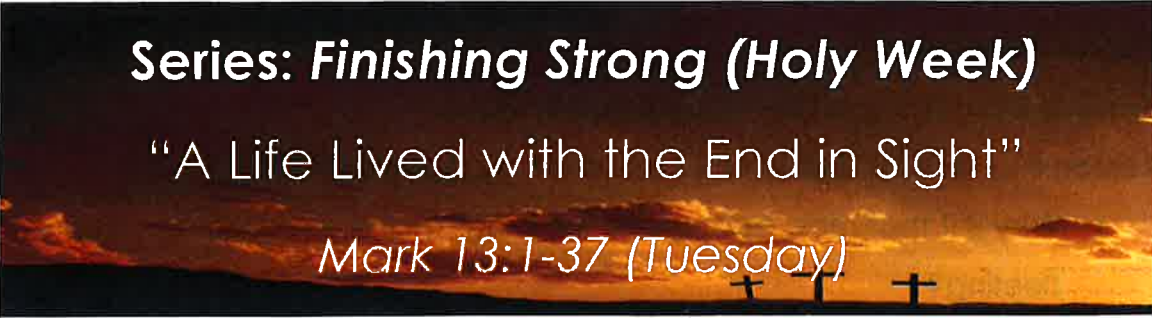
- What are some practical steps you can take to begin dedicating everything that you are to the Lord each day?

#### **3. Loving God with all your mind means we have a thought life consumed with God and His desires.**

- What are some of the things that take your mind off God and His desires?
- What are some things you can practically do throughout the day that keep you consumed with the thoughts of God? (Philippians 4:8)

#### **4. Loving God with all your strength means doing everything with an eye to please Him.**

- In what areas of life do you find yourself just going through the motions and forgetting to do them for God's glory?
- How can you begin dedicating every action to the Lord today?  
(1 Corinthians 10:31)



## Series: *Finishing Strong (Holy Week)*

“A Life Lived with the End in Sight”

*Mark 13:1-37 (Tuesday)*

### **Lessons From Living a Life with the End in Sight:**

**Lesson #1 – Live for that which cannot be \_\_\_\_\_.** (Mark 13:1-2)

If what we live for isn't Jesus it will be torn down at some point.

**Lesson #2 – Live for the praise of \_\_\_\_\_ even when it costs you at the hands of \_\_\_\_\_.** (Mark 13:3-13)

The more we stand for Christ the more Satan and the world will try to beat us down. We must remember in the midst of persecution that we are living for the One who has already secured victory through His death and resurrection.

**Lesson #3 – Live knowing that there is an \_\_\_\_\_ to all the madness and that serving Christ in the midst brings \_\_\_\_\_ unimaginable.** (Mark 13:14-31)

Believers will get to experience rewards that we can't even fathom at death and/or the Rapture, and at the Second Coming of Christ when we return to the earth with Him. Remembering this helps believers not only survive during times of trial, but to thrive.

**Lesson #4 – Live life focused on your \_\_\_\_\_ (spreading the Gospel), not your \_\_\_\_\_.** (Mark 13:32-37)

We want Christ to find us making eternal impacts when He takes us home, not cowering due to our fear of the situations around us.

## **Food for Thought:**

### **Lessons From Living a Life with the End in Sight:**

#### **Lesson #1 – Live for that which cannot be destroyed. (Mark 13:1-2)**

- Why is it that most people live for things that are temporary and fleeting?
- What are some of the things that you tend to get a little wrapped up in that don't matter

#### **Lesson #2 – Live for the praise of God even when it costs you at the hands of man. (Mark 13:3-13)**

- Why is it so tempting to live for the praise of man instead of the praise of God?
- What are some practical steps you can take this week to make sure you are living the applause of One and the applause of many?

#### **Lesson #3 – Live knowing that there is an end to all the madness and that serving Christ in the midst brings rewards unimaginable. (Mark 13:14-31)**

- How does remembering that eternal rewards await Christ's followers help us deal with our current struggles?
- What are some the rewards that have been promised to Christ's followers?

#### **Lesson #4 – Live life focused on your job (spreading the Gospel), not your situation. (Mark 13:32-37)**

- What are some of the current situations in your life that cause you to lose focus of your job?
- What is your specific plan for reaching those in your sphere of influence?
- Spend some time praying for lost people you know by name.

# Easter Sunday 2018

## **"If I Had Faked the Resurrection"**

### **John 19-20**

**I. If I had faked the resurrection I wouldn't have first been \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_. (John 19:1-2, 16-18)**

- The Romans perfected this brutal torture by where the victim would be whipped with a cat of 9 tails 39 times and have large blunt nails driven through the wrists and ankles... they added to this a robe and crown of thorns for Jesus.
- The ancient Roman historian Josephus called crucifixion "the most wretched of deaths."

**II. If I had faked the resurrection I wouldn't have had professional executioners pierce my \_\_\_\_\_ confirming to the masses I was \_\_\_\_\_. (John 19:31-34)**

- The Roman soldiers pierced the paracardial sac. Red blood cells and the water in the sac separate at death.

**III. If I had faked the resurrection I would not have been buried in a tomb that was so \_\_\_\_\_ . (John 19:38-42)**

- 700 years before His birth it was prophesied in Isaiah 53:9 that He would be buried in a rich man's tomb.

- Joseph of Arimathea was a man that was well known and people would have undoubtedly known exactly where his tomb was and it wouldn't have been one that could be easily mistaken.
- If the disciples did go to the wrong tomb the Romans would have taken them to the right one and then paraded the body around.

**IV. If I had faked the resurrection I would not have had \_\_\_\_\_ be the first eyewitnesses to make the report. (John 20:1-2)**

- The testimony of women was in no way respected in that culture.
- The testimony of a woman was not even considered credible in a court of law in Jesus' day.

**V. If I had faked the resurrection I wouldn't have \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ to fold up the face cloth before leaving. (John 20:3-7)**

- There would have been great hurry if the body was being stolen or moved.
- The folded up face cloth indicates no hurry and the fact that the linen cloths were off the body is also an indicator the body wasn't stolen.

**Conclusion:**

**His resurrection led to both \_\_\_\_\_ changing and \_\_\_\_\_ changing belief! (John 20:8-10)**

**The same can be true for you today!**