

# **Mark 11:1-11 – Passion of Christ: Eye like Flint ( 坚石 ) !**

TSK, Henry, Handfuls, Poole, GreekLexicon, Geneva, JFB, Barnes, Lightfoot, Robertson, Vincent, Clarke, Calvin, Gill, Rienecker, Broadus?

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: **Passion Week (耶稣受难周) is from** [HYPERLINK "https://www.gotquestions.org/Palm-Sunday.html"](https://www.gotquestions.org/Palm-Sunday.html) \h **Palm Sunday (棕榈节主日) through Resurrection Sunday (复活节主日)**. Between these two Sundays, the other days were called [HYPERLINK "https://www.gotquestions.org/Holy-Monday.html"](https://www.gotquestions.org/Holy-Monday.html) \h Holy Monday, [HYPERLINK "https://www.gotquestions.org/Holy-Tuesday.html"](https://www.gotquestions.org/Holy-Tuesday.html) \h Holy Tuesday, [HYPERLINK "https://www.gotquestions.org/Spy-Wednesday.html"](https://www.gotquestions.org/Spy-Wednesday.html) \h Spy Wednesday, [HYPERLINK "https://www.gotquestions.org/Maundy-Thursday.html"](https://www.gotquestions.org/Maundy-Thursday.html) \h Maundy Thursday, [HYPERLINK "https://www.gotquestions.org/Good-Friday.html"](https://www.gotquestions.org/Good-Friday.html) \h Good Friday, and [HYPERLINK "https://www.gotquestions.org/Holy-Saturday.html"](https://www.gotquestions.org/Holy-Saturday.html) \h Holy Saturday. **But why do we use the phrase “Passion Week?”** It doesn't seem to make sense base on how we use the word “passion” today. **We use the word “passion” today to mean “an intense desire”.** Surely that does not accurately reflect Passion Week's events which were about Christ's suffering and death. To understand why it is called “Passion Week” we have to go back to the original meaning of the word “passion.” The Word passion meant “suffering” in the Latin. So “Passion Week” was Christ's last week of suffering before he became a sacrifice (献祭) for your sins. The first thing you will hear about Pasion Week is Christ's ascension to Jerusalem, a journey which led him to the cross.

Our headings are:

**Jesus' Courage**

**Jesus' Humility (谦卑)**

**Jesus's Grief**

Our goals are: **That you will know that Jesus was the prophesied (预言的) sacrifice who willingly went to the cross for you, and that your love for him will then be rekindled (被重新点燃)**.

## **Jesus's Courage**

1 Now when they drew near Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, **at the Mount of Olives**, He sent two of His disciples; 2 and He said to them, "Go into the village opposite you; and as soon as you have entered it you will find a **colt tied**, on which no one has sat. **Loose it and bring it.**

**1. The events of our text took place just outside of Jerusalem, and this is especially significant historically and theologically.**

**a. Jesus boldly came to Jerusalem to die.** Earlier, when threats were made to his life, he would slip away from the attacks. But when he was done his teaching work, he was ready to die. So he resolutely set his eyes toward his suffering on the cross, the next trial he had to face.

[Isaiah 50:7](#) "For the Lord GOD will help Me; Therefore I will not be disgraced;

Therefore **I have set My face like a flint ( 坚石 )**., And I know that I will not be ashamed.

**b. Jesus was near Bethphage** (House of green figs). Green figs are not known for being bitter with an enzyme (酶) that burns lips.

**c. Jesus was near Bethany** (House of misery). Bethany could be interpreted as “hospital.” a place where the sick were.

**d. Jesus was near Mt Olives.** Olive oil and leaves brought abundant healing oil and nourishment. Healing was near the place of “bitterness” and “misery.” The Lord likely ascended to heaven from the center of the 3 peaks of Mt Olives.

**2. Jesus then sent 2 disciples (Peter and John) to go to a nearby village, find a young, tied colt, loose it, and bring it to him.**

**Matthew said that there were 2 animals**, so likely the mother donkey was next to the colt which was tied.

**Matthew 21:7** They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set Him on them.

(While in English we often refer to colts as young male horses, the word used here (“poelows”) could refer to any young male animal. (“Poelows” was also translated as “chicken.” The French use the word “poulet.”) Since “clear passages (Matthew 21) interpret unclear passages,” it is then clear that the young animal here was a young male donkey.

**Why would Jesus want a young colt...why not a majestic chariot (马车) with many horses, with soldiers all around – quite like Caesar?** Jesus came as a symbol of peace. The donkey was a symbol of peace and an ordinary life. You can see more of Christ’s ordinariness in that the colt he was riding was borrowed. Even before that you could see his ordinariness when he **borrowed a boat**. Later he borrowed a room for the Passover (逾越节). Then he was buried in a borrowed tomb.

**Why would Jesus ride an unriden colt?** The colt was not the easiest animal to ride as it was not trained yet, so by riding it without any trouble, Jesus **showed his dominion** over the creation.

3 "And if anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord has need of it,’ and immediately he will send it here."

**3. Jesus told Peter and John that if anyone asked question while they were loosing and taking the young colt, they were to simply say that “the Lord needed it.”**

The Lord has right to everything. He made everything. Everything belonged to him.

#### **4. Lessons:**

**a. The Lord Jesus faced threats of death throughout his life without fear and he faced the cross without fear.** His perfect love prevented fear from entering his life.

**b. The Lord came willingly to the place where he would be sacrificed – on the east side of Jerusalem.** That made him a fit sacrifice for you. And unwilling sacrifice was not a fit sacrifice.

**c. Be humble.** Don’t show-off (炫耀) your wealth, knowledge, power, or position. Your humility, because it reflects Christ in you, will **open up the door for non-believers** to ask questions about Jesus. Your humility **encourages Christians to trust more in Jesus.**

**d. Be humble. Don’t be ashamed to depend on others, without being lazy.** There is nothing wrong in accepting help when you need it. **Sinful pride will cause you to reject help** and you won’t able to serve the Lord as you should.

### **Jesus’ Humility**

4 So they went their way, and found the colt tied by the door outside on the street, and they loosed it.

**1. So Peter and John went and found the colt (and the mother) tied by the door outside on the street and they loosed it.**

5 But some of those who stood there said to them, "What are you doing, loosing the colt?" 6 And they spoke to them just as Jesus had commanded. So they let them go.

**2. Then people there asked why they were losing the colt (which was tied because it was untrained), and the disciples answered just as Jesus told them to answer.**

The fact that the owners let the colt go **showed Christ had power over the will of man.** It would not have been normal to let a valuable young donkey go loose or go to strangers.

7 Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their clothes on it, **and He sat on it.**

**3. After the disciples took the colt back to Jesus, they threw their clothes on it for him to sit on.**

This was remarkable because even though Jesus was King of the world he had **no majestic saddle 马鞍 on which to would sit.** Seeing Jesus on an ordinary, untrained donkey should have

impressed on the disciples' hearts that **Jesus was not setting up an earthly kingdom**, but it didn't. They still expected an earthly kingdom.

#### **4. The Lord Jesus riding on a lowly, ordinary donkey was a fulfillment of what the Zechariah wrote.**

**Zechariah 9:9** Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! **Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey**, A colt, the foal of a donkey.

Jesus was declaring that he was the one who would bring salvation to his people. This was to further confirm that he was the true humble Messiah.

#### **5. Lessons:**

**a. The disciples willingly obeyed the Lord even though what he told them to do might have appeared wrong and posed threats to their lives.** The implication for you is that you must be bold in your obedience. Worship each Sunday. Discipline your children. Submit to your husbands. Refuse to do unnecessary business of the Lord's Day. Say no to adultery. People might provoke, insult, or threaten you, but you must reject them and follow the Lord. He has emboldened you.

**b. Jesus had to suffer humiliation for you.** He had to be born a man, in a poor family, from Galilee, with little means, not good-looking, and going hungry and thirsty. He had to ride on a lowly donkey for you. He had to experience life as man so he could be tempted (被试探) as a man. He had to be betrayed. **And in humility, on a donkey, he headed to the cross.**

### **Jesus's Sadness**

8 And many **spread their clothes on the road**, and others cut down leafy branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

#### **1. The Jews then respectfully received Jesus as their king, though on a donkey, when he entered Jerusalem.**

This Jesus was much better than the ones they expected to be king in the past that they had welcomed to Jerusalem. Two hundred years before Judas Maccabaeus had triumphantly entered Jerusalem the same way in order to free the Jews from Greek control and restore worship. But even though he hoped to become king and restore Israel to his historical glory, he failed. Others promised the same thing.

#### **2. How did the Jews show that respect to Jesus?**

**a. They spread their clothes on the ground on which the Lord's colt walked, like they did to Jehu when he was coronated.**

**b. They waved leafy palm branches. Waving palm branches was a symbol of victory in war.**  
1 Maccabees 13:51 "On the twenty-third day of the second month, in the one hundred and seventy-first year, the Jews entered it with praise and palm branches, and with harps (竖琴) and cymbals (铙) and stringed instruments (弦乐器), and with hymns and songs, because a great enemy had been crushed and removed from Israel." An abundance of palm trees – for dates (枣子), etc., meant survival from famines (饥荒)! Dates could provide nourishment (营养) for years. So waving their branches was good.

**c. Their celebration imitated the celebration at the Feast of Tabernacles (住棚节).**

**Leviticus 23:40** 'And you shall take for yourselves on the first day the fruit of beautiful trees, **branches of palm trees, the boughs of leafy trees, and willows of the brook; and you shall rejoice before the LORD...**

9 Then those who went before and those who followed cried out, saying:

**"Hosanna! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!'** 10 **Blessed is the kingdom of our father David** That comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"

#### **3. The people then praised God for the coming of Jesus into Jerusalem**

**a. They shouted, "Hosanna."** This means "Save, I beseech (恳求) you."

**b. They shouted, “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.”** But the better translation is, “Blessed is he that *should* come in the name of the Lord.” Jesus was the one they were expecting. They quoted Psalm 118.

**Psalms 118:25 Save now, I pray, O LORD; O LORD, I pray, send now prosperity. 26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!** We have blessed you from the house of the LORD.

The phrase “in the name of the Lord” meant Jesus was coming with Divine (神性的) authority.

**c. They shouted, “Blessed is the kingdom of our father David.”** This meant that they understood that Jesus was the Messiah and that the kingdom Jesus was inaugurating had Divine approbation...it would be blessed by God. Normally a Jew would describe himself as a son of Abraham. But they described Jesus as the Son of David, a title for the Messiah.

**d. They shouted “Hosanna in the highest.”** This expansion suggests that they were praying to the Highest One to save them. There was no greater power! You surely get the excitement of the people.

**But Jesus was sad because he knew the Jews were hoping to be saved from Rome who had taken over their lands. They were not hoping to be saved from their sins.** And within a few days he knew that these same people would cry, “Crucify him! Crucify him!” after they realized he was not inaugurating an earthly kingdom. Jesus was sad, but he was bold. He still went on.

11 And Jesus went into Jerusalem and into the temple. So when **He had looked around at all things**, as the **hour was already late**, He went out to Bethany with the twelve.

#### **4. Jesus then went into the temple late that evening and he cleansed it of the money-changers who polluted it.**

You will see more of the details about this next time. But how this must have made him feel sad as he looked around the temple! He saw how things had fallen apart in Israel. But doing his Father’s work was his “meat and drink.” So he set his face like flint.

**Psalms 50:21** These things you have done, and I kept silent; You thought that I was altogether like you; But **I will rebuke you, And set them in order before your eyes.**

#### **5. Afterwards he went to Bethany, the House of Misery, maybe for his own personal preparation for what was ahead.**

We have no record of anything that happened there.

#### **6. Lessons:**

**a. Throughout the history the church has always believed and taught salvation was from none other!** John confirmed this.

**Revelation 7:10** and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "**Salvation belongs to our God** who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

Jesus came to save his people, not from the tyranny (专制) of Rome, as they craved, but from suffering caused by sin! This **is why he marched into Jerusalem without fear and then marched to the cross.** Was he sad? Yes. But love moved him.

**b. So you too must cry out the praises of the one who truly rules over you and keeps you safe from all your enemies: the Devil, the world, and your flesh!** Yes, he keeps you safe from terrorists, from abusive governments, and from employers who might take advantage of you, but his love was far greater and deeper. So announce “Hosanna” so the world might meet Jesus.

#### **Conclusion:**

Jesus **requested** and **rode** on a donkey to enter Jerusalem. He was humble. He was willing to be that

sacrifice for the sins of his people. The problem was the people who received him as King were ignorant (无知的) – and Jesus knew it. They wanted him to set up an earthly kingdom. And then many of these same people who praised him would turn against him in a few days and cry out for his crucifixion (钉十字架) – and Jesus knew it. And what sadness (and anger) he felt when he went into the temple! But he set his eyes like flint to the work of the cross.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

**1. The fact that only Jesus was the fit sacrifice for sins, the fact that he set his face like flint and headed to the cross to die for you, and the fact that he rose again and sits at the right hand of the Father making intercessions (代求) for you should make you love him.**

**2. This love should then be translated to regular worship and diligent work!**

Finally, if you are not a Christian, it doesn't matter how good you think you are, you will still go to hell when you die. If you want to go to heaven, call out like the Jews of that day and say: "Hosanna – Lord, save me. Accept Christ's death as my death." If you ask this with sincerity (真诚), God will answer and save you.