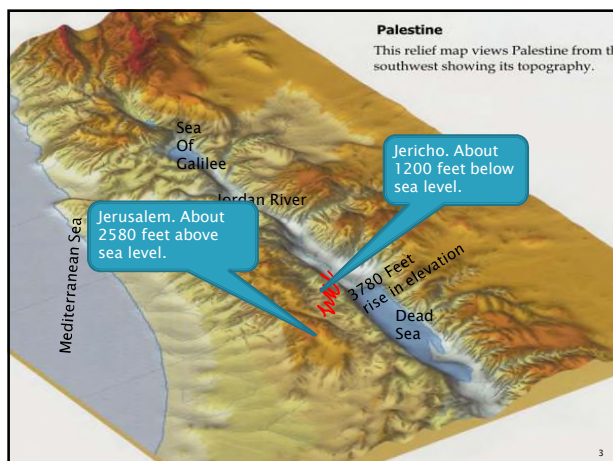
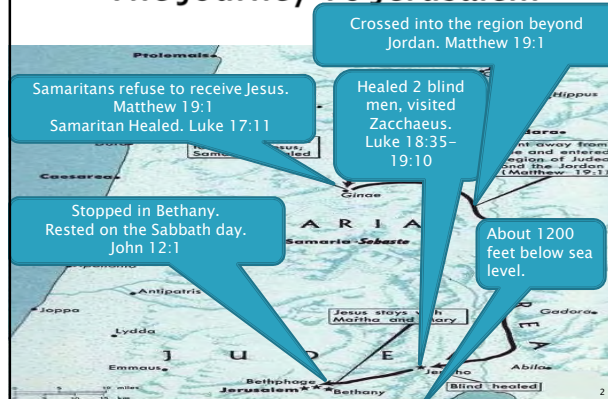


"Nothing But Leaves"

Mark 11:12-14

The Journey To Jerusalem



Sunday

- ▶ **Preparation:**
Secures the colt. Matthew 21:1-7
- ▶ **The Procession Into The City.**
Multitude spread their garments on the road.
Matthew 21:8
- ▶ **Shouts Of The People As Jesus Entered.**
Mark 11:9-10, "*Blessed (is) the kingdom that cometh, (the kingdom) of our father David: Hosanna in the highest.*"
cf. Mark 15:13-14
 - My kingdom is not of this world. John 18:36

Sunday

- ▶ **The Response Of The Pharisees.**
Matthew 21:14-15, "*And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple; and he healed them. But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children that were crying in the temple and saying, **Hosanna** (help or save, I pray) to the son of David; they were moved with indignation.*"

Sunday

- ▶ **Prophecy of Jesus.**
Luke 19:41-44, "*And when he drew nigh, he saw the city and **wept over it**, saying, **If thou hadst known** in this day, even thou, the things which belong unto peace! **but now they are hid from thine eyes. For the days shall come upon thee, when thine enemies shall cast up a bank about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, and shall dash thee to the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.***"
- ▶ **Return to Bethany.** Mark 11:11

Monday

- ▶ Judgment upon the unproductive fig tree. Mark 11:12-14
- ▶ Cast out the merchandisers. Mark 11:15-18
- ▶ Return to the mount of olives (Bethany, Matthew 21:17; Luke 21:37), in the evening.

7

What Jesus Sought And What He Seeks

Of the fig tree – Fruit.

- ▶ **Nature of fig trees:** “On this kind of tree the fruit forms before the leaves and should be full grown before the leaves appear; so this tree, by putting on its foliage before the time for figs, was proclaiming itself superior to all other fig trees. This made it a striking symbol of the hypocrite, who, not content with appearing to be as good as other people, usually puts on the appearance of being a great deal better.” (J.W. McGarvey)
- ▶ The tree, “had promise without performance” (A.T. Robertson) and became, as a result, an object of cursing and the basis for a lesson on hypocrisy and faith.

8

What Jesus Sought And What He Seeks

- ▶ **Of the Jewish nation – Fruit.**
 - Israel was a “special people.” Deuteronomy 7:6 Exodus 19:5-6
 - He had cared for and protected them. Genesis 12:1-3; Genesis 37-50
 - He had delivered them from bondage of Egypt. Exodus 12.
 - Brought them into the promised land. Joshua 3-4

9

What Jesus Sought And What He Seeks

- ▶ **Of Christians today – Fruit.**
 - Spiritual Israel a special people. 1 Peter 2:5, 9
 - Branch to be fruitful. John 15:2-5
 - New Creation. 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 4:22ff
 - The likeness and image of Christ. 1 Peter 2:21; Galatians 2:20; Colossians 3:10
 - Holy character. 1 Peter 1:14-15
 - Self denial. Matthew 16:24

10

What Christ Found And Finds

- ▶ In the fig tree – *“Nothing but leaves.”*

11

What Christ Found And Finds

- ▶ In the Jewish Nation – *“Nothing but leaves.”*
 - John 6:14; 12:42-43 Lip service to his miracles.
 - Matthew 22 Captious questions.
 - Matthew 23:23-28 Outward expressions, hypocrisy.
 - Mark 15:12-14 *“Crucify him ...”*

12

What Christ Found And Finds

- ▶ In Christians today – ***“Nothing but leaves.”***
 - We profess to ***“speak where the Bible speaks.”*** 1 Peter 4:11
 - Necessitates study. 2 Timothy 2:15; 1 Peter 3:15

13

What Christ Found And Finds

- ▶ In Christians today – ***“Nothing but leaves.”***
 - We profess to worship.
 - Observe the Lord’s Supper every Lord’s day. Acts 20:7
 - Communion with the Lord. 1 Corinthians 10:16–17
 - Communion with other Christians. 1 Corinthians 10:16–17; 11:17ff; Edify. 1 Corinthians 14:26
 - Need to assemble. Hebrews 10:24–25; Psalms 122:1
 - Sing! Teach and admonish. Ephesians 5:19
 - Need to talk to the Lord! Philippians 4:4–6; 1 Peter 5:6; Hebrews 4:14–16

14

What Christ Found And Finds

- ▶ In Christians today – ***“Nothing but leaves.”***
 - We teach forgiveness, but harbor ill will. Matthew 5:23; 18:15
- Examples:
 - The prodigal son’s father – Luke 15:20–24.
 - The sinner in Corinth – 2 Corinthians 2:5–8.

15

What Christ Found And Finds

- ▶ In Christians today – ***“Nothing but leaves.”***
 - We teach repentance, but often only regret. *metanoia* – “a change of mind for the better, heartily to AMEND with abhorrence of one’s past sins.” (Thayer, 405)
 - ▶ Acts 17:30–31, “*The times of ignorance therefore God overlooked; but now he commandeth men that they should all everywhere repent*”
 - David. Psalms 51
 - Prodigal. Luke 15
 - Peter. Luke 22

16

What Christ Did And Will Do

- ▶ To the fig tree.
 - Cursed it and it withered away forever.
- ▶ To the Jewish Nation.
 - Scattered to the four winds of the earth. cf. Joshua 23:14–16; 2 Kings 17–18; Jeremiah 25:8–11
- ▶ To Christians.
 - Cut off. John 15:1–6

17

“There’s A Great Day Coming”

- ▶ Is your life empty and barren ... or fruitful?
- ▶ Are you simply a great show of leaves... or fruitful?
- ▶ What will He say?
 - Matthew 25:23, “*Well done, good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will set thee over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy lord.*”
 - Matthew 25:41, “*Depart from me, ye cursed, into the eternal fire which is prepared for the devil and his angels*”

18