



# Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School



## Episode 116 - Empty Fig Trees and Temples (Mark 11)

### The King Rides into His Capital.

After a great victory, especially after eliminating a deadly enemy, a king would enter his capital in a glorious procession with his army, his captives and the spoils of his victory. He normally rode a towering war horse to show his great power and to fill his people with pride and courage.

Jesus rode into Jerusalem before His great battle, a battle which would see Him eliminate our most dreadful, powerful enemies. But He didn't choose a powerful war horse; He rode a humble beast of burden—a donkey.

- What message was Jesus trying to convey by choosing a donkey instead of a war horse?
- What would be a modern equivalent to the way Jesus paraded into town?

The people shouted, ... "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!" (Mark 11:9b-10). The word "hosanna" means "Save us now, O Lord!"

- Even though the crowds were probably calling for Jesus to save them from the Romans, in what sense were these words correct?
- What enemies and circumstances might you have in mind when you call out hosanna to Jesus?
- Why should we be grateful that Jesus didn't just come to defeat temporary enemies like the Roman military?

### A Fruitless Tree and the Temple

The next day Jesus cursed the fig tree and cleansed the temple, giving us a strong warning about busying ourselves with religious works while being empty of genuine faith in our hearts.

- How can a person go to church every week, give a generous offering of his time, talents and money, and still be fruitless in God's sight?
- What questions should you ask yourself to make sure you are not fruitless like the fig tree?
- Why does this call for all of us to repent and seek God's forgiveness and help to worship Him in spirit and in truth?