

1. **Introduction:** Jesus and the disciples near Jerusalem. In a very pointed teaching, Jesus stressed that the 12, as future leaders in His kingdom, were not to “lord” it over the people, not to use their authority to force people to do things but were to lead by being servants.
 - Those familiar with the Jewish Scripture would have remembered the lesson God taught when Judah was conquered, and its people exiled.
 - Babylon conquered Judah (586 BC) carrying most of its people into exile. How should the Israelites respond in the city of their conqueror?
 - Should they seek revenge and do all they could to hurt the Babylonians?
 - God tells them in **Jeremiah 29:7**: *“But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.”* That was a surprise.
 - Is that the best way to respond to enemies? Yes, says God.
 - Be a willing servant and do your best work. You will please God and your captors. Ultimately, good will come to you.
 - Jesus affirms that attitude for those who are in high positions and have people under their authority. Treat those under your authority nice. They will be surprised, and God will be pleased.
 - Not worrying is very difficult, especially in circumstances like being a captive exile in a strange land.
 - The truth about worry is that at its very bottom, it usually rests on an attitude that says though God is in charge, He isn’t doing a very good job. I need to tell what is going on and how to fix this problem.
 - Be comforted. Remember that somehow God works all things together for the good of those who love Him. Do we love God?
 - How do we know? Scripture says, if we love Him, we will obey Him.
 - **John 14:15**: *“If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”*
 - As we turn back to Mark, Jesus and the disciples reach Jericho.
2. **Mark 10:46a**: *“And they came to Jericho.”*
 - Jericho is situated in the Jordan River valley just north of the Dead Sea. It is about 850 feet below the level of the Mediterranean. It is a lovely area with a mild climate, palm trees, and fertile productive land.
 - The city sat astride one of the busiest trade routes in the ancient world.
 - Because of its temperate climate, kings and high officials built huge palaces with swimming pools and large gardens.

- Jericho had a hippodrome (a stadium designed for horse racing, etc.) and a theater.
 - Passover travelers stopped there to rest before beginning the roughly 3,000-foot climb up the narrow, winding road to Jerusalem.
 - The steep Jericho to Jerusalem road was difficult walking but made more difficult and dangerous by the presence of many bandits.
3. **Mark 10:46b-47**: *“And as he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a great crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside.”*⁴⁷ *And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”*
- Jesus and the 12 together with a great crowd of people traveling to Jerusalem for the Passover leave Jericho for Jerusalem.
 - During this time of the Passover travelers, many beggars positioned themselves along the route hoping for monetary mercy.
 - The blind beggar named Bartimaeus calls out to Jesus using His messianic title of “Son of David.” The man asks for mercy.
4. **Mark 10:48-49**: *“And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”*⁴⁹ *And Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.” And they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart. Get up; he is calling you.”*
- The beggar’s loud shout to Jesus for mercy caused some in the crowd to rebuke him, telling him to be quiet, but Bartimaeus persevered.
 - It worked. Jesus paused and the crowd stopped with Him. Jesus instructed His disciples to *“Call him.”*
5. **Mark 10:50**: *“And throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus.”* The blind beggar immediately “came to Jesus,” perhaps with help from those around him.
6. **Mark 10:51-52**: *“And Jesus said to him, ‘What do you want me to do for you?’ And the blind man said to him, ‘Rabbi, let me recover my sight.’”*⁵² *And Jesus said to him, ‘Go your way; your faith has made you well.’ And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him on the way.”*
- Jesus’ question to the blind man is surprising. *“What do you want me to do for you?”* The man believed in Jesus’ ability to heal and didn’t ask for money as he usually did. Instead, in faith he asks for sight.
 - Jesus tells the man his faith in Jesus has made him well, and it was so.
 - He was not only physically blind, but his spiritual condition was the darkness of a fallen nature. Jesus, full of grace, restored his physical sight and caused him to be born again, saved from his sins.

- Bartimaeus response is to follow Jesus. That is confirmation that Jesus not only gave him physical sight but saved him.
 - Giving sight to blind Bartimaeus fulfilled a prophecy that devout Israelites knew was associated with the coming of Messiah.
 - That fulfillment is part of Mark's showing that Jesus is not merely David's offspring but is David's Lord.
7. **Mark 11:1-6:** *"Now when they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethpage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples ² and said to them, 'Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. ³ If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.' ⁴ And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. ⁵ And some of those standing there said to them, 'What are you doing, untying the colt?' ⁶ And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go."*
- After the strenuous climb from Jericho to just outside Jerusalem, Jesus prepared to enter the city. He arranged to stay nearby.
 - The location was to intended to be kept secret from His enemies.
 - John's gospel says that Jesus stayed in Bethany with His friend Lazarus and his sisters, Martha and Mary who shared a home. Bethany was on the eastern slope of the Mount of Olives (2 miles from Jerusalem).
 - Jesus' enemies were waiting an opportunity to eliminate Him. Jesus had been coming to Jerusalem for Passover since childhood, but this time was very different. He had reached the point in His ministry where He must assert His messianic claims.
 - Jesus was about to complete His mission of redemption.
 - Jesus and His disciples apparently reached Bethany before sundown on Friday. Jesus seems to have enjoyed Sabbath (Friday sunset to Saturday sunset) with his friends.
 - On that Saturday night (after sundown), a supper was given in Jesus' honor by "Simon the leper.
 - The dinner began the conclusion of Jesus' incarnate ministry.
8. **Preview of The Conclusion of Jesus' Ministry:** Preview of principal events following their arrival of Jesus and the disciples to Bethany.
- (1.) Saturday evening – supper in Bethany at the home of Simon the leper (14:3-9).
 - (2.) Sunday - Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem and return to Bethany (11:1-11).
 - (3.) Monday – Cursing of the fig tree; cleansing of the Temple and leaving Jerusalem (11:12-19).
 - (4.) Tuesday – (a.) Conversation between Peter and Jesus, teaching the 12 the meaning and lesson of the fig tree. (b.) Confrontation between Jesus and His enemies,

who ask Him questions that He answers. Jesus concludes with His Parable of the Wicked Tenants.

- (c.) Denunciation of the scribes. (d.) Comment in the Temple about the widow's offering. (e.) Comments on Jerusalem's coming destruction, the great tribulation, and the second coming.
 - (f.) Collusion for the purpose of killing Jesus. (this series of Tuesday events are in Mark 11:20-14:2)
 - (5.) Wednesday – No events recorded. It is possible the agreement between Judas and the chief priests (Mark 14:10-11) happened that day or perhaps somewhat earlier.
 - (6.) Thursday (including Thursday night) – (a.) Preparation for the Passover. (b.) Celebration of the Passover feast including prediction about the betrayer. (c.) Institution of the Lord's Supper. (d.) Leaving for Gethsemane. (d.) Prediction that they will all forsake Jesus, and Peter will deny Him three times. (e.) Experience in the Garden of Gethsemane: Jesus' agony, prayers, betrayal by Judas, arrest, desertion by all. (f.) Episode of the young man who fled. (g.) Denial by Peter, Jesus' trial before the Sanhedrin resulting in condemnation. (These Wednesday and Thursday events are in Mark 14:2-72).
 - (7.) Friday – (a.) Trial before Pilate. (b.) The people choose Barabbas for release. (c.) Jesus sentenced to be crucified. (d.) He is scourged. (e.) Jesus is mocked by the soldiers. (f.) Simon of Cyrene is forced to carry the cross. (g.) Jesus is crucified between two criminals.
 - (h.) Calvary Scenes: Bystanders blaspheme, chief priests and scribes scoff, robbers revile using harsh, abusive language. The women watch.
 - (i.) Calvary Signs: From noon until 3 PM darkness covers the entire land. Christ speaks in a loud voice. The thick veil separating the Holy of Holies from the rest of the Temple is split from top to bottom. The centurion's testimony.
 - (j.) Jesus' death. Jesus taken from the cross and placed in the tomb. (Friday events are in Mark 15.)
 - (8.) Saturday – Jesus in the tomb. No events recorded.
 - (9.) Sunday – Jesus' resurrection. Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices intending to anoint Jesus' body. But the stone had been rolled away from the tomb's entrance, and Jesus was no longer in the tomb (16:1-8).
 - (10.) Post-resurrection appearances (16:9-20).
9. **Next lesson:** We will begin with Mark 11:1 as Jesus and the 12 arrive at Bethany.