

**THE LAST WEEK OF THE LORD JESUS ON EARTH**  
**IVa. Jesus' Final Day of Public Teaching (cont.)**  
**Jesus Proclaimed Truth (Part 1 Early Morning)**  
**Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> Nisán (April 1), A.D. 33** (c. 6:00 A.M.)  
Mk. 11:20-33; Lk. 20:1-8; Mt. 21:23-32

**Introduction:**

On first day of the last week in His life on Earth, Jesus was served dinner (a cooked meal) at **Baythah-néeah** (Bethany) in the dwelling (the building in which people are presently living) of Simon the leper. It was prepared and served by **Máhrthah** and eaten in second evening (sunset til dark) on Sunday, 9 Nisán (March 29), 'six days before Passover.' Passover that year occurred on Friday, 14 Nisán (April 3), A.D. 33. After dinner and the event of the evening, it was too late (after dark) to travel any distance (especially c. thirteen miles) back to **Ehfrah-éem** (*Macmillan Bible Atlas*, map # 236), where He had been tarrying for the last five days. Therefore Jesus and His disciples must have retired to spend the night at **Baythah-néeah** (Bethany) and began the journey to Jerusalem in the next morning (Jn. 12:12), on Monday, 10 Nisán (March 30), and not on Sunday, 9 Nisán (March 29), which is the traditional day of observance of His Triumphal entry into Jerusalem. He returned to and passed Monday night at **Baythah-néeah** (Mt. 21:17; Mk. 11:11,12). On the next morning, Tuesday, 11 Nisán (March 31), on their journey to Jerusalem, He and the disciples came upon the Mount of Olives and a fig tree having leaves but no fruit. That day The Lord Jesus demonstrated and expressed four of His emotions by: Cursing the Fig Tree, Crying over Jerusalem, Cleansing The Temple, and Compassion on the Helpless in the court of The Temple. They had spent Tuesday night on the Mount of Olives (Mk. 11:19; Lk. 21:37,38). Although Wednesday is regarded by many Bible teachers to be a day of silence for The Lord Jesus Christ, that concept is far from The Truth. That day He spent more time teaching His disciples and the multitudes in The Temple with more details of his teaching than other day recorded by Matthew, Mark, and Luke than any other day of His three year ministry. It appears that this concept is derived, perhaps because of the attempt to account for the days of this last week of His life before His crucifixion and resurrection-ascension since they claim His Triumphal Entry to have been on Sunday instead of Monday.

On Wednesday, 12 Nisán (April 1) in the morning watch just before dawn (c. 6:00 A.M.) on their way to The Temple from The Mount of Olives, Jesus and His twelve disciples beheld the fig tree, that Jesus cursed the day before, completely dried up from the roots (Mark 11:20). This occurred on the early morning of Wednesday, the last day The Lord Jesus taught publicly to the crowds before His crucifixion. His teachings on this day are divided into three segments: **Lessons Taught on the Way to The Temple; His Ministry in The Temple; and His Ministry on the Mount of Olives.**

It is impossible to adequately expound all of the teachings by The Lord Jesus Christ on this one day in one Lesson. It is wise to keep in mind what John wrote at the end of the last chapter of His Gospel. "Now it is, /Jesus did also many other as great things, whichever if (and it may be) they be written one by one, I imagine not even the world itself to have room for the scrolls being written" (Jn. 21:25 APT). Therefore it is concluded that The Gospel writers condensed their abridged record of His teachings form what they recalled and along with The Holy Spirit's guidance and control they accurately wrote. Thus much more of what Jesus taught and said transpired than what is contained in the Inspired Record.

In most of His Teachings on this day Jesus used parables to illustrate The Truth He intended to communicate. To properly interpret parables requires explanation and observance of specific guidelines before undertaking to accurately understand them. Therefore we shall study today just the first segment of His teaching in the morning in The Temple and at a later date study His Teaching of Truth throughout the day (Wednesday) involving Lessons in eight categories on: Faithful Service, Fatal Wrath, Financial Responsibility, Future Living, False Religion, Fallible Recognition, Fatal Rebuke, and Faithful Giving with parables illustrating The Truth He taught and then concluded His teaching the public by pronouncing eight woes upon the hypocrites, scribes, and Pharisees.

#### **A. Lessons Taught on the Way to The Temple (Mk. 11:20-26).**

There were three lessons taught to His disciples by The Lord Jesus on their way to The Temple, Faith, Prayer, and Forgiveness.

1. The Lesson on Faith - not just belief, but persistent total commitment of personal trust that whatever is requested shall be done (Mk. 11:20-26).
  - a. The Example - the Fig Tree completely dried up from its roots (v. 20).
  - b. The Twelve Disciples' Exclamation: "How instantly the fig tree became dried up!" (Mt. 21:20 APT).
  - c. Peter's Excitement (Mk. 11:21) - The next day Peter verbally observed the remarkable condition of the tree, "Behold the fig tree which you cursed has been completely dried up" **in one day!** Notice the account of this fact on the previous day recorded by Matthew. Immediately after the curse the upper tree "instantly became dried up" (Mt. 21:19,20 APT), that is, visibly upon sight, referring to the leaves and branches. Matthew recorded the fact with the ingressive aorist tense, that the fig tree instantly began drying up (Mt. 21:19,20 APT), while the next morning Mark used the perfect passive tense twice when he recorded that, upon a close-up view, even "from the roots" . . . "the tree has been completely dried up"! (Mk. 11:20,21 APT). Thus on Tuesday instantly the corruption process beginning could be noticed nearby, but on Wednesday scrutiny close at hand revealed even the roots were completely dried up.
  - d. The Christ's Exhortation (Mk. 11:22,23).
    - (1) If you<sup>&</sup> be persistently committing trust and 'never doubt in the heart . . . (Mt. 21:21 cf. Mk. 11:22,23; Rom. 4:20). The verb translated 'doubt' is an aorist subjunctive in prohibition which calls for forbiddance of an action before it begins.
    - (2) If you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, mountains can be removed (Mt. 17:20; Mk. 11:23,24 cf. 1 Cor. 13:2; Zech. 14:4).
  - e. The Absolute Necessity for Faith, i.e. persistent total commitment of personal trust that The God shall do it (v. 24)
    - (1) No one can be saved without faith (Eph. 2:8)!
    - (2) No one can be accepted by The God without faith (Heb. 11:6)!
    - (3) No one can be justified without faith (Rom. 3:28; 5:1; Gal. 2:16)!
    - (4) No one can have righteousness imparted without faith, i.e. personal persistent committed trust (Rom. 3:22-25; 4:13-16; Phil. 3:9; Heb. 11:7)!
2. The Lesson on Prayer (Mk. 11:24-26).

The Jews corrupted The House of Prayer. So The Lord Jesus cleansed It. The disciples misunderstood prayer. So Jesus taught them, Heard and answered prayer is only guaranteed to those who exercise faith i.e. personal persistent committed trust in The God The Father, to Whom prayer is to be addressed and forgiveness is communicated to those who

have offended, have confessed their offense, and sincerely sought forgiveness. Without these two requirements The Lord Jesus Christ's Father will neither hear nor answer prayer. Therefore it is futile to pray unless and until these requirements are met. Much emphasis is put upon prayer by religious people. Remember that not only The True God answers prayer but so does the god of this world who is the devil. He also likes to be referred to as 'God.' And so many people pray to God thinking they are praying to The God, but are totally unaware it is the Devil and not The God (Ps. 66:18) because they do not regard the stipulations laid out in the God's Word. It is good to question to ask, To which God is one praying, The True God or the god of this world, The Devil?

- a. No one can pray to The Father successfully and be heard without being cleansed from and forgiven of sin and sins by means of repentance and confession of sin (Jn. 9:31; Ps. 66:18; Isa. 59:2; 1 Jn 1:9).
- b. No one can pray to The Father successfully and be heard without faith (Mt. 21:22; Mk. 11:24).

### 3. The Lesson on Forgiveness Mk. 11:25,26).

This is the third lesson that Jesus taught on the way to The Temple from The Mount of Olives. No one can pray to The Father successfully and be heard without forgiving personal offenders, who have confessed their offense and sincerely sought forgiveness so that you have a relationship with them equal to or better than before they offended you (Mk. 11:25,26 cf. Mt. 6:14,15; 18:23-34,35; Lk. 11:4; 17:3,4).

Without the offender's confession and voiced intent for forgiveness, one is not obligated to forgive, but is obligated not to hold malice but rather to leave it and the offenders with The Lord.

Have you learned these three lessons? Have you committed personal persistent trust to The Lord Jesus Christ? Have you learned how to pray and have you taken the steps to insure that The Father will definitely hear and answer your prayers? Have you examined yourself and made sure you have forgiven all those who have offended you, have confessed their offence, and have sincerely sought your forgiveness?

### **Conclusion:**

Today we began to observe the events that took place on the third day in **The Last Week in the Life of The Lord Jesus Christ** on Wednesday, 12 Nisán (April 1) A.D. 33. The day began just before dawn c. 6:00 A.M. on the Mount of Olives on their descent to **Gethsaymahnáy** as they came upon the fig tree that Jesus cursed the day before. Jesus turned the expressed reaction of Peter into an illustration to teach Lessons on:

1. the absolute necessity for Faith (personal persistent committed trust):
  - a. to be saved,
  - b. to be accepted by The God,
  - c. to be justified with The God, and
  - d. to have righteousness imparted;
2. in order for Prayer to be heard by The God it is absolutely necessary:
  - a. to be cleansed from and forgiven of sin and sins by means of repentance and confession of sin,
  - b. to have Faith (personal persistent committed trust) that it shall be done.
3. in order to receive Forgiveness from God The Father it is absolutely to forgive personal offenders, who have confessed their offense and sincerely sought forgiveness so that you have a relationship with them

equal to or better than before they offended you .

Have we learned these lessons well or do we need to concentrate on some one or more of the requirements so that we may be sure our prayers are heard and shall be answered positively, or with a 'no,' or with a different answer that is better than for what we asked?

**Application:**

What will you do now to insure that you meet all the requirements for prayer to The God so that your prayers will be surely heard and ultimately answered?

For next week: **Read and meditate upon: Jesus' Final Day of Public Teaching: Mt. 21:33-46; Mk. 12:1-12; Lk. 20:9-11).**