



March 30, 2025 Sermon Study Guide
Brian Bales – Redefining Expectations - Mark 11:1b-11

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. ⁷ And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. ⁸ And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. ⁹ And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! ¹⁰ Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!” ¹¹ And he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple. And when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve. (Mark 11:1b-11 ESV)

A Life Application Study Guide

James 1:22-25 tells us to put into practice what we are discovering in God’s word.

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. Unmet Expectations

- Think of a situation when thought you knew how things should go, but what actually happened was very different. How did you navigate the events?

- Were you tempted to double down on what you thought should happen, or did you rethink your own expectations?

- Jesus challenged Israel's expectations of what the Messiah should look like 2000 years ago. What were they expecting and what did they experience instead?

- In what ways does He still surprise you or challenge your expectations of who He is even today?

2. An Unexpected Moment and an Obedient Response (v. 1-6)

- When and how has Jesus surprised you by asking you to do something out of the ordinary? How did you respond? If others were affected by your response, how did they react?

- When have you experienced the power of Jesus in a seemingly impossible situation? Describe the outcome and it's impact on you.

3. A Triumphant Entry (v. 7-11)

- What expectations did the crowd in Jerusalem have as Jesus rode into town? In what ways were they right? In what ways were they wrong?
- How did the people in Jerusalem react when God didn't meet their expectations?
- Consider how you might have reacted if you could reach back and step into their world.

4. The Mission of Jesus - *I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. (John 10:9-11 NIV84)*

- List at least 3 ways that the true mission of Christ provides us with more than we could imagine apart from Him. What do you still find most difficult to believe about Jesus as your Savior on an average day?
- What circumstances in your life are you waiting on Jesus to step into or make different? What if He doesn't respond in the way that you want Him to?

- How might your expectations need to change? Where does the power for that kind of change come from?

- Jesus said that He came so that we could have an abundant life. How might your life be different if you chose to more fully embrace that truth? What does abundance represent for you?

FINAL THOUGHTS

In *The Great Divorce* by C.S. Lewis he explores the idea that people ultimately have two choices, either to keep doubling down on their own wrong expectations or surrender to God.

- Lewis says, “There are two kinds of people: those who say to God, 'Thy will be done,' and those to whom God says, 'All right, then, have it your way,'”

- Which one are you? What expectations about who Jesus is, do you need to set aside or allow Him to redefine?