

Study of Mark 11
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Mark 11:1- 33

1 And when they came nigh to Jerusalem, unto Bethphage

(בית פג, Beit Pag, where the word Beyit, means, home, house, family, school, the word Pag, means, early fig, therefore, this word means, fig house or house of figs)

And Bethany

(בית ענייה, Beit Anyah, which means, house of the poor, or בית ענייה, Beit Ananyah. Which means house of Ananiah, a village less than two miles SE of Jerusalem)

*At the mount of Olives, Messiah sent forth two of His disciples, 2 And said unto them, Go your way into the village over against you: and as soon as you enter into it, you **SHALL** find a colt tied, whereon **no man has ever sat**; Loose him, and bring him. 3 And **IF** any man say unto you, Why are you doing this? Say. The Master has need of him; and straightaway, he will send him here.*

This is but one of the many incidents where Messiah seems to know things that no one else could or would know. How did Messiah know that there would be colt tied to something in a specific place, and that when His disciples took this colt, to bring him to Messiah, that **IF** the man who owned or was taking care of the colt said anything, then His disciples were to tell him, that the Master has need of the colt, and that the man will let you take him? It is because the Holy Spirit of our heavenly Father was speaking to Him, and therefore Messiah knew exactly where the colt was, and how to get him, so that He could fulfill the prophecy of Him coming into Jerusalem on a colt, the foal of an ass which is mentioned in *Zechariah 9:9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Tzion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, your King comes unto you: He is **Just**, and having **Salvation**; lowly, and **Riding upon an ass, and upon a colt, the foal of an ass.***

*Verse 4 And they went their way, and found the colt tied by the door without, in a place where two ways met; and they untied him. 5 And certain of them that stood there said unto them, Why are you loosing or untying the colt? 6 And they said unto them, even as Yeshua had commanded: **AND** they let them go.*

YHVH has left **NOTHING** to chance, for He has a plan that He prepared at the beginning of time, and His plans will always come to fruition and be accomplished **exactly** as He has ordained, and this is no different, for His disciples do indeed encounter people as Messiah said they would, and sure enough, the people that are watching over the colt do indeed ask His disciples, why are you loosing or untying this the colt, and Messiah's disciples repeated the Words that Messiah gave them, and the people let them go away with the colt.

Verse 7 And they brought the colt to Yeshua, and cast their garments on the colt; And Messiah sat upon him.

Now in every other story where an important man, a king, a prince, an emperor, or a Pharaoh triumphantly comes into a city, they usually come on a beautiful well groomed steed, followed by an array of other people on beautiful horses, to show the people that are watching, how important that person is, **BUT IT IS NOT** so with Messiah, for we are told that Messiah sits on the colt of an ass, to ride into Jerusalem, hardly the kind of animal that any important person would choose to make a triumphant entry into a city with. So why did Messiah do that, why did He come into Jerusalem on the a colt, the foal of an ass?

Since Messiah is indeed the Words of our heavenly Father's Torah of Life made flesh, and Scripture quite clearly points out that the Words of our heavenly Father, **ARE** our servants, the servants that our heavenly Father sent to guide us onto the Path of YHVH's Righteousness, that He, our heavenly Father wants all of His children to walk on, therefore that means that Messiah has come as a **SERVANT**, to show all of us, that the road or the path onto everlasting Life in the kingdom of Elohim, **IS** through being an obedient servant to YHVH, and do as Messiah, the Words of the Living Torah of our heavenly Father made flesh did, and that is, become a **SERVANT** onto all people, for that is what Messiah came as, and that is what He taught us to do, for according to Messiah, being a servant, **IS** the only way that anyone will get to spend eternity in the kingdom of Elohim, as the Bride of Messiah.

Verse 8 And many spread their garments in the way: and others cut down branches off the trees, and strawed them in the way. 9 And they that went before, and they that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna; Blessed is He that comes in the Name of YHVH: 10 Blessed be the kingdom of our father David, who comes in the Name of YHVH: Hosanna in the highest.

Many of the people that are speaking these words and **praising** Messiah, have heard of the prophecy of Zechariah, and they now believe that Messiah is the fulfilment of that prophecy. However, what I don't know, is what they have been taught about what Messiah will do, when He comes in fulfilment of the prophecy in Zechariah. Some have been taught that He will destroy all of their enemies and restore the kingdom of Yisrael, to the grandeur of the Solomon era, and that they, Yisrael/Judah, will rule the world. But Messiah, did **NOT** come to do that, for that is the false teaching of some man made doctrine, it is **NOT** the biblical truth of the reason for Messiah's first visit. So as we read on, we will see how the people that are now praising His coming, treat Him later, when He is about to be crucified, for many that are lauding Him now, will cry out later, crucify Him, crucify Him.

Verse 11 And Yeshua entered into Jerusalem, and into the temple: And when He had looked round about upon all things, and now the eventide was come, He went out unto Bethany with the twelve.

Here we are told that after Messiah had entered Jerusalem, and had gone into the Temple, the house of His Father, to look around, that He and His disciples then retired back to Bethany. At this point we are not told what Messiah saw, in the city nor the temple, we are only told that He went in to take a look at things.

*Verse 12 And on the morrow, when they were come from Bethany, Messiah was hungry: 13 And seeing a fig **TREE** afar off having leaves, he came, **IF** happily He might find any thing thereon: and when He came to it, he found nothing but leaves; for **the time of figs was not yet.** 14 And Yeshua answered and said unto the fig tree, **No man eat fruit of you hereafter FOR EVER.** And His disciples heard it.*

What is Messiah saying here, what is He trying to teach us? Do you think that because Messiah is hungry and that there are no figs on the fig tree, that Messiah is angry at a fig tree, for **NOT** producing fruit, even though we are told that the season for producing the figs had not yet arrived? What principle do you think Messiah is trying to teach us here, through this particular event with the fig tree?

I will tell you what I believe Messiah is teaching us here, later on, when we read the rest of the story.

Next we see that after leaving the fig tree, Messiah makes His way to Temple in Jerusalem, and the first thing that He does is cast out the people who bought and sold merchandise in the Temple.

*Verse 15 And they come to Jerusalem: and Yeshua went into the temple, and began to cast out them that bought and sold in the temple, and He overthrew the tables of the money changers, and the seats of them that sold doves; 16 And would **NOT** suffer that any man should carry any vessel through the temple.*

Messiah is showing us that the leadership of the people of Yisrael, have allowed the Temple to be polluted by the ways of man. The Temple of YHVH, is supposed to be a place of prayer, a place of devotion, a place where all people can come and pray to our heavenly Father, **BUT**, the Pharisees, and Scribes, have turned the Temple into a marketplace, rather than what it is meant to be, a place where all people can come, to pray to and worship YHVH.

Please don't misunderstand what Messiah is saying, He is not saying that buying and selling is wrong, or that the exchange of money is evil, He is saying that the house of His, and our Father, **IS NOT** the place to do that, the Temple or the house of our heavenly Father, **IS** to be a place of worship, a place that is to be treated with reverence, and not as a common market place.

Next Messiah teaches the people that are there what the house of our heavenly Father is supposed to be, He says in *verse 17 And He taught, saying unto them, Is it not written, My house **SHALL be called of all nations the house of prayer? BUT you have made it a den of thieves.***

That is a quote from *Isaiah 56:7 Even them will I bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in My house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices shall be accepted upon My altar; for My House **SHALL be called a house of prayer for ALL people.***

Have you ever tried to concentrate on praying to YHVH Elohim, while there is someone nearby talking loudly, or advertising his wares, or the products that he is selling? As you know, these kind of interruptions in our prayer time is very disturbing, and makes it almost impossible to concentrate on praying, and therefore, our attention is taken some place else, and it defeats the purpose of our heavenly Father's house of prayer, for it is supposed to be a place of reverence, where one can quietly pray and speak with YHVH Elohim.

*Verse 18 And the **scribes and chief priests** heard it, and sought how they **might DESTROY HIM:***

WHY, do you think, that when the Scribes and the Chief Priest heard of what Messiah had done, that they wanted to destroy Him?

It is the old adage, follow the money. The Scribes and the Pharisees profited from the money exchangers and the people selling their wares, or merchandise, for the merchants paid the Scribes and the Pharisees, a fee, or a percentage of what they sold for the privilege of being able to sell their wares and or merchandise, in the Temple. Now just stop and think for a moment of what this means, to the so called leaders of the Jewish man made religion of the day, and you will see why they were so very upset with Messiah, the Living Torah made flesh, it is **BECAUSE**, He was about to cut into their profits, their **PERSONAL GAINS**.

Now, lets make a comparison of what Messiah saw in the temple, on that day, and what He would see, **IF** He were to walk into many of the so called Christian churches of today. As you know there are many churches of the man made religion of Christianity today, that have, cafeterias, or coffee/cappuccino bars, or book stores, or other types of stores under the very same roof where they are supposedly to congregate, to praise and worship our heavenly Father? And if that is the case, **THEN WHAT** do you think Messiah would do the tables of these merchants, **IF** He were to come into a church that has these kind of places? Well, since Scripture makes it very clear, that Messiah is the same yesterday, today and forever, I would hazard a guess and say, that I believe, He would overthrow all of them, and **IF** He did overthrow them, what do you think the priest of that church would do, do you think that they too would want Him to be cast out of their midst, for cutting into their revenue stream? You have to answer that question for yourself, **BUT** I know what my answer is.

Now there is another element to what is happening here that I believe is important to mention, and that is, by ridding the house of our heavenly Father of merchants, Messiah was teaching the Doctrine of the Father to all who were watching what He was doing, He was teaching the Father's Doctrine that tells us **what the Father expects from His children**, and by their own words and actions, it is quite evident that these Scribes and Pharisees, wanted **NOTHING** to do with the Doctrine of Messiah, who said that His Doctrine was **NOT** His own Doctrine, **BUT** that it was the Doctrine of our heavenly Father who sent Him, which of course means, that the Pharisees Doctrinal position, was contrary to the Doctrine of our heavenly Father. This therefore tells us that the Doctrinal position of the Scribes and Pharisees, what they call their **oral torah**, **IS** contrary, to the Words of the written Torah, that YHVH gave to Mosheh at Mount Sinai, and just like what Jeremiah tells us in *Jeremiah 16:19 O YHVH, my strength, and my fortress, and my refuge in the day of affliction, the Gentiles shall come unto You from the ends of the earth, and shall say, Surely our fathers have inherited lies, vanity, and things wherein there is no profit.*

This is what the Catholic and Christian churches have inherited, the **LIES** of the Synagogue and Church fathers, which has taken them away from YHVH's eternal and everlasting **TRUTH**, the Words of our heavenly Father's Torah of Life.

Verse 19 And when even was come, Messiah went out of the city. 20 And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. 21 And Peter calling to remembrance said unto Messiah, Master, behold, the fig tree which YOU CURSED, IS withered away.

Is peter correct, did Messiah actually **CURSE** the fig tree? I don't think that He did, Messiah simply said, in *verse 14 And Yeshua answered and said unto the fig tree, No man eat fruit of you hereafter FOR EVER.*

There is no anger in these words, there is only Messiah's statement of fact, in which Messiah says, ***No man eat fruit of you hereafter FOR EVER.***

After reading *verse 14* I asked you, why do you think Messiah made that statement, and you all gave me a variety of answers, **BUT** to get the right answer, we have to, as I said above, read the rest of the story.

*Verse 22 And Yeshua answering said unto them, Have **BELIEF** (faith), in Elohim. 23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be you removed, and be You cast into the sea; **AND, SHALL NOT DOUBT** in his heart, **BUT SHALL BELIEVE** that those things which he said **SHALL** come to pass; he **SHALL** have whatsoever he says.*

So, I ask you again, what is the lesson that Messiah wants us to learn from these words? Is it about the **fig tree** or is it about level of belief (faith) that we, who profess to be followers of Messiah, who is the Words of our heavenly Father's Living Torah made flesh, **are to have?** I don't believe that this has anything to do with the **fig tree**, but that it has everything to do with our level of belief, (our faith).

First we have to understand that this is a parable, and that YHVH wants to teach us a lesson. Normally, a leafy fig tree **indicates that it has ripe fruit.** However, this tree had no fruit. What we have to understand is that the first figs normally begin to appear before the leaves, but as the foliage increases, the fruit ripens. Therefore as Messiah looked at the fig tree from a distance, He saw the fig tree had leaves on it, which should have meant that there are figs on the tree. But when Messiah approached the fig tree, He saw that there were no figs on it, and therefore he cursed the fig tree.

Therefore since this is, as I said above, a parable, then the symbolic gesture of cursing the Fig Tree, is because of its misleading appearance. It produced leaves, which should have meant, that it had figs on it, **but it did NOT.** Therefore, I believe that Messiah was talking about the Pharisees, that have an appearance of being pious and obeying the Words of the Torah of YHVH, **BUT** in reality, they are following their own man made doctrine that they call their oral torah, which they believe, supersedes the actual written Torah that was given to Mosheh at Mount Sinai, by YHVH Himself.

We also have to deal with the last part of verse 13 which says: *the time of the figs was not yet.* Even though the normal time of the figs was **NOT** yet come, the fact is, the fig tree appeared to be producing ahead of schedule, for it gave the appearance of doing something, that it was NOT doing.

Therefore that is why I believe that Messiah is teaching us that this fig tree represents a *hypocrite*, who gives the appearance of being something that he is not. This hypocrisy was the condition of the religious leaders of Yweahua's day, and it is also the condition of many today.

*Matthew 16:6-12 Then Yeshua said unto them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees. 7 And they reasoned among themselves, saying, It is because we have taken **no bread.** 8 Which when Yeshua perceived, He said unto them, O you of little belief (faith), why reason you among yourselves, because you have brought no bread? 9 Do you **NOT** yet understand, neither remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets ye took up? 10 Neither the seven loaves of the four thousand, and how many baskets ye took up? 11 How is it that you do not understand that I spoke it not to you concerning bread, that you should **beware of the leaven of the***

*Pharisees and of the Sadducees? 12 Then understood they how that He bade them **NOT** to beware of the leaven of bread, **BUT of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.***

I believe that Messiah is showing us, through this parable, of this fig tree, that we are to eat the Fruit that He produces, which happens to be, the Words of our heavenly Father's Living Torah, for Messiah is the Words of our heavenly Father's Torah made flesh, and not the fruit of the Pharisees, their man made oral torah.

Messiah said to the fig tree, because you have no fruit that can sustain Me, then from this point on, no man eat fruit from you forever, and that is exactly what happened, for the fig tree withered and died. This tells us that all people who refuse to eat from our heavenly Father's Torah of Life, will also wither and die, which is a metaphor for being sent to their second death in the lake of Fire, where like the fig tree they too will wither and die

Next we have to see how Messiah answers Peter. He said have **BELIEF** in Elohim. He didn't say, I am glad that fig tree is dried up and withered, because it did **NOT** have any fruit, He said, **HAVE BELIEF** in Elohim. Then Messiah says, in *verse 24 Therefore I (the Living Torah made flesh) say unto all of you, Whatsoever things YOU desire, when you pray, BELIEVE that YOU receive them, and you SHALL have them.*

Now I hope that you can see that this is a lesson in the importance of having **BELIEF** that is at the same level that Messiah has, and that, it is something that all of us need to work on, on a daily basis, for we are told that we, as believers, **are to have the mind of Messiah**. Therefore, I believe that Messiah was **NOT** teaching us how to **CURSE** something, **BUT**, He was teaching **how to learn to BELIEVE the Words that He speaks**, and what things, **CAN BE, AND ARE** accomplished, when a person learns to believe as Messiah did, and taught us to do.

Now the lesson is not over yet, for Messiah tells us what one of the key ingredients **ARE**, to having our prayers answered by Elohim?

Verse 25 And when you stand praying, FORGIVE, IF you have ought against any person or group: WHY?

So that your Father, who is in heaven, may also FORGIVE YOU your trespasses. BUT IF you DO NOT FORGIVE, neither will your Father who is in heaven forgive your trespasses.

Therefore the key ingredients to having our prayers answered **ARE TWO FOLD**, First we are to work at having the same level of belief (faith) that our Messiah has, which means that we **are to have the mind of Messiah**, and we are to also learn to have a **forgiving heart** as Messiah has, for He even said from the cross, as the people were crucifying him, forgive these people Father, for they do **NOT** know what they are doing.

Verse 27 And they came again to Jerusalem: and as He was walking in the temple, the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders came to Him, 28 And said to Him: By what authority do You do these things? Who gave You this AUTHORITY TO DO these things?

I know that I have had that very same question posed to me, and I am sure that many other Torah teachers have been asked, where did you get your degree in Theology from? How did Messiah

answer their questions? He did so with another question, He said in *verse 29*

*And Yeshua answered and said unto them, I will also **ASK** of you one question, and answer Me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things.*

Then in *verse 30* Messiah says: *The immersion of John, was it from heaven, or of men? Answer Me.*

The word immersion, in our English Scriptures is translated as Baptism, therefore Messiah is asking these chief priests, scribes and elders, **IS** the baptism that John was baptizing people with was from heaven, or was it just something that John or some other person invented?

Next we are told what the chief priests, scribes and elders answered in *verse 31*

*And they reasoned with themselves, saying, **IF** we shall say, From heaven; He will say, Why then did you **NOT** believe John? 32 But **IF** we shall say, **OF MEN**; they feared the people: for all men counted John, that he was a prophet indeed. 33 And they answered and said unto Yeshua, **WE CANNOT TELL.***

In other words they were in the valley of decision, but could **NOT** decide, and the reason they could **NOT** decide is because of **FEAR**, fear of agreeing with Messiah, that the immersion or baptism that John was doing was indeed from heaven, was indeed from our heavenly Father, thereby making their own teachings, based on the writings of their man made oral torah, their man made doctrine, **LIES**, and fear of being derided, ridiculed and maybe even hurt physically by the people who did indeed believe that John the immerser was sent by our heavenly Father.

Therefore, since they did **NOT** answer Messiah's question, then Yeshua said to them, *Neither do I tell you by what **AUTHORITY** I do these things.*

Studying and keeping Torah together as a community.

*Have a great Elohim blessed week and may YHVH bless your every thought,
and your every deed. Until we meet again. Amein*