

## Monday, April 6: Jesus Clears the Temple

It is Monday morning, Jesus and His disciples return to Jerusalem after a triumphal day as Jesus entered into Jerusalem as a humble king. Little did the disciples know what they were going to experience over the next seven days. We joined the disciples and the people of Jerusalem yesterday in watching Jesus' entry. We may have been cautious observers or exuberant celebrants regardless of our participation we along with Jesus are on a journey that will change our lives and world as we know it.

Let us pray ...

Almighty God, Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Monday morning's events are recorded in Matthew 21:12–22, Mark 11:15–19, Luke 19:45-48, and John 2:13-17.

After His triumphal entry into Jerusalem Jesus returned to spend the night in Bethany. As daylight appears over the horizon and a new day begins, Jesus and his disciples prepare for the day and returning to Jerusalem. Mark records Jesus' journey from Bethany to Jerusalem that day noting that Jesus was hungry. In His hunger Jesus sees a fig tree and he could find no fruit on it to eat (it was not the season for it to have fruit) and he curses the tree.

Some scholars believe the cursing of the fig tree represented God's judgment on the spiritually dead religious leaders of Israel. Others believe the symbolism extended to all believers, demonstrating that genuine faith is more than just outward religiosity; true, living faith must bear spiritual fruit in a person's life.

Later in the day when Jesus arrived at the Temple, he found the courts full of corrupt money changers. He began overturning their tables and clearing the Temple, saying, "The Scriptures declare, 'My Temple will be a house of prayer,' but you have turned it into a den of thieves" (Luke 19:46).

Monday is a day of reflection. A day of questions. A day of searching one's heart, soul, and mind. Is your heart, soul, and mind filled with a living faith? What spiritual fruit are you producing?