



SPORTS IN FOCUS

THE SERVANT'S CORONATION

Mark 11:1-33 • Lesson Eight

READY

- If you could somehow travel back in time and witness any event in sports history, what would you choose to watch and why?
- What about biblical history? What about the life and ministry of Christ?

SET

Context of Mark 11:1-33

Hurling toward a dramatic conclusion, Mark portrays the most significant coronation the world has yet seen, but a coronation unlike any other in history. This is a true coronation of a true King: Jesus, affirmed as King and, in a sense, inaugurated into His kingship—but without pomp, splendor, and pageantry. When his disciples wonder about this action, Jesus uses the opportunity to teach them about faith, prayer, and forgiveness.

Keys to Text

The Temple: At Jesus death, the curtain of the temple was torn from top to bottom. By His death, Jesus opened a new way into the presence of God. No longer was the temple in Jerusalem to be the place where people worshiped God. From now on they would worship Him “in spirit and truth” (John 4:21-24).

GO

Read Mark 11:1-33

1. What new truth about Jesus have you discovered thus far in this study of the book of Mark?
2. If someone were to comment to you, “I think it’s weird that Jesus cursed that fig tree!” How would you respond? How would you explain Christ’s actions?
3. Following Christ’s explanation of the withered fig tree, the disciples received a lesson in faith and prayer. What does it mean that our faith “can move mountains”?
4. What motivated the Jewish religious leaders to plot and scheme against Christ to the degree which they did?
5. What might Jesus do if He were to come physically into some of our modern-day churches or religious activities? Would He be pleased ... or disgusted? Why? What aspects of the North American church would offend Him?
6. How fruitful are you? Does your life contain the appearance of Christianity, but without the proof?

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The 2010 Winter Olympics began with dazzling performances by a star-studded cast of Canadians. The Wall Street Journal estimated to have cost around \$40 million to produce the opening ceremonies. Canada was the last country to march and 50,000 people erupted as the “athletes” emerged. Can you imagine the thrill? By contrast, the entrance of Jesus arriving in Jerusalem for his coronation was without pomp, splendor, and pageantry.

What details stand out to you in this account of the triumphal entry of Christ into Jerusalem? What is the mood? Contrast this with the triumphal entry of the Olympic athletes in Vancouver.