**Round Top Church Christian Fellowship**

Sermon

*The Good News According to Mark,*

*An Apostle of Jesus Christ*

 *365 Day Disciple ~ Mark 11: 27-33*

*Triumphal Entry – By What Authority*

June 17th, In the Year of Our Lord 2018

 We review Mark 11:18-26 to set the context for the rest of the chapter. Jesus is confronting the chief priest and the scribes at the Temple in Jerusalem. Jesus had already made His Triumphal entry into Jerusalem. He had come as the High Priest in the order of Melchizedek. Jesus came to replace the existing high priest and the whole Temple system of substitutionary atoned-blood sacrifice with His own body and blood, the once-and-for-all sacrifice for the sins of the world (Hebrews 10). Jesus had previously turned over the tables of the money-changers and drove them (along with the animals) from the Temple claiming His house as a house of prayer. Jesus had cursed the fig tree as a sign for Israel in the prophetic words of Joel and Amos. Verse 27 picks up with Jesus’ activities on the next day.

**Continue in Mark 11**  18 And the chief priests and the scribes heard *this*,

and *began* seeking how to destroy Him; for they were afraid of Him, for all the multitude was astonished at His teaching.

**Jesus leaves the city**

 19 And whenever evening came, they would go out of the city.

 20 And as they were passing by in the morning,

they saw **the fig tree** withered from the roots *up*.

Amos 4:9 9 "I smote you with scorching *wind* and mildew; And the caterpillar was devouring Your many gardens and vineyards, fig trees and olive trees; Yet you have not returned to Me," declares the LORD.

Joel 1:6-7 6 For a nation has invaded my land, Mighty and without number; Its teeth are the teeth of a lion, And it has the fangs of a lioness. 7 It has made my vine a waste, And my fig tree splinters. It has stripped them bare and cast *them* away; Their branches have become white. (continue in verse 12) . . .

12 The vine dries up, And the fig tree fails; The pomegranate, the palm also, and the apple tree, All the trees of the field dry up. Indeed, rejoicing dries up From the sons of men.

 **Continue in Mark 11**

 21 And being reminded, Peter said to Him,

 "Rabbi, behold, the fig tree which You cursed has withered." Fig Tree represents Israel

 22 And Jesus answered saying to them,

**"Have faith in God.**

 23 "Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain,

Habakkuk 3 17 Though the fig tree should not blossom, And there be no fruit on the vines, *Though* the yield of the olive should fail, And the fields produce no food, Though the flock should be cut off from the fold, And there be no cattle in the stalls, 18 Yet I will exult in the LORD, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation.

Verse 23 continues. . . 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it shall be *granted* him.

 24 "Therefore I say to you,

all things for which you pray and ask,

believe that you have received them,

and they shall be *granted* you.

25 "And whenever you stand praying,

forgive, if you have anything against anyone;

so that your Father also who is in heaven

may forgive you your transgressions.

26 *"But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father who is in heaven forgive your transgressions.*"

 Think about the purposeful acts of God in the flesh. After three and one-half years of being THE ANTAGONIST of the religious leaders, Jesus enters their headquarters. He throws-out the money-changers and the animals exposing their self-indulged hearts. He then leaves. It is beyond human authority that Jesus comes back the next day. Can you imagine the thoughts of the chief priest and the scribes to see Jesus come back? They were terrified into acting. The Cross was their only hope of doing away with this Man who has obviously greater authority than they do or else He would not do the things He does. They were backed into a corner to surrender to God or rebel in the most severe terms, THE CROSS.

 They were willing to turn-in one of their own countrymen into the occupying force of Rome. But even to do this, they had to make- up charges and falsely accuse an innocent man. Fallen humanity at its finest. Kill the God that gives you eternal life, because you would rather be the conductor on your own train to hell than riding as a passenger in the caboose of THE JESUS TRAIN going to HEAVEN.

 SO, Mark 11:27 brings us some astonishing news. HE’S BACK! And they came again to Jerusalem. And where do you think Jesus is going? You guessed it – to the Temple; back to the headquarters of the high priest, scribes and elders. The audacity of this Man, Jesus, to overturn their system the previous day and then return. What other question could they have asked? *“By what authority are You doing these things, or who gave You this authority to do these things?”*

 God empowers His Believers. We are empowered to do the things that fallen man cannot do. When man loses his nerve, God remains steady and on course. Jesus exposes the nerves of the religious leaders by asking them one question, but Jesus does not answer them because they are illegitimate leaders. They chose to be blind and not hear. So, Jesus demands from them an answer. *“And You Answer ME!”* This is a command. Even in their questioning of Jesus, they did not have the upper hand. *"I will ask you one question, and you answer Me, and then I will tell you by what authority I do these things. 30 "Was the baptism of John from heaven, or from men? Answer Me."*

Notice in verse 31 that they were reasoning among themselves. This is the problem. Why did they not consult Scripture? They chose themselves as the source to answer a question about John the Baptist. This is a lesson for all of us. We should always answer with the confidence of Scripture. In this case, Scripture (Old Testament) identifies John the Baptist in Isaiah and Malachi. These religious leaders should have known this. However, they did not accept Jesus as the Messiah. They were looking for an earthly king to defeat their enemies.

**John the Baptist Prophecy in the Old Testament**

**Isaiah 40:3** A voice is calling, "Clear the way for the LORD in the wilderness; Make smooth in the desert a highway for our God.

**Isaiah 43:19** "Behold, I will do something new, Now it will spring forth; Will you not be aware of it? I will even make a roadway in the wilderness, Rivers in the desert.

**Malachi 3:1** "Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming," says the LORD of hosts.

**Matthew 3:3** For this is the one referred to by Isaiah the prophet, saying, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make ready the way of the Lord, Make His paths straight!"

**Mark 1:2-3 2** As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way; **3** The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make ready the way of the Lord, Make His paths straight. "

**Luke 3:4** as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make ready the way of the Lord, Make His paths straight.

**John 1:23** He said, "I am a voice of one crying in the wilderness, make straight the way of the Lord, as Isaiah the prophet said."

What is Authority? A dictionary definition states that authority is the power or right to give orders, make decisions, and enforce obedience. God has all of these attributes. Notice how Jesus exercised authority over His questioners. They asked Him a question, but, because they were a lessor authority, Jesus turned the tables on them and commanded them to answer Him. Jesus made a decision and gave His order and enforced His decision by not answering them. What we must learn from this is that Jesus is demonstrating to us how God can work in a person. Jesus said that He could do nothing without the Father.

**John 5:19** Jesus therefore answered and was saying to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless *it is* something He sees the Father doing; for whatever *the Father* does, these things the Son also does in like manner.

**John 5:30** "I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

**John 15:5** "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.

**John 5:19** Jesus therefore answered and was saying to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner.

**John 8:16** "But even if I do judge, My judgment is true; for I am not alone in it, but I and He who sent Me.

**John 4:34** Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to accomplish His work.

**John 6:38** "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

**Matthew 26:39** And He went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as Thou wilt."

**John 8:28** Jesus therefore said, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me.

**Psalm 40:8** I delight to do Thy will, O my God; Thy Law is within my heart."

**Zechariah 9:9** Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation, Humble, and mounted on a donkey, Even on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

**Mat 26:42** He went away again a second time and prayed, saying, "My Father, if this cannot pass away unless I drink it, Thy will be done."

**John 5:23** in order that all may honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

**John 7:18** "He who speaks from himself seeks his own glory; but He who is seeking the glory of the One who sent Him, He is true, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.

**John 8:42** Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me; for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me.

**John 14:10** "Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works.

**John 17:4** "I glorified Thee on the earth, having accomplished the work which Thou hast given Me to do.

**Acts 22:14** "And he said, The God of our fathers has appointed you to know His will, and to see the Righteous One, and to hear an utterance from His mouth.

**Romans 2:2** And we know that the judgment of God rightly falls upon those who practice such things.

**Romans 15:3** For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached Thee fell upon Me."

All of these verses paint a picture that God infused himself into humanity in the body of Mary who produced a child named Jesus. Jesus then grows-up just like you and me and faces the same challenges we face. However, there is one big difference: God was in the flesh as Jesus Christ. By this miracle, God demonstrated that the first Adam failed, but the second Adam succeeded.

**Continue in Mark 11**

27 And they came again to Jerusalem.

And as He was walking in the temple,

the chief priests, and scribes, and elders came to Him,

28 and *began* saying to Him,

"By what authority are You doing these things, or who gave You this authority to do these things?"

29 And Jesus said to them,

"I will ask you one question, and you answer Me,

and *then* I will tell you by what authority I do these things.

30 "Was the baptism of John from heaven, or from men? Answer Me."

31 And they *began* reasoning among themselves, saying,

"If we say, 'From heaven,' He will say,

'Then why did you not believe him?'

 32 "But shall we say, 'From men '?"

-- they were afraid of the multitude,

for all considered John to have been a prophet indeed.

33 And answering Jesus, they said,

 "We do not know."

 And Jesus said to them,

"Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things."

It is astonishing that religious leaders do not know their Scripture. In this case, with all that had happened with John the Baptist and Jesus, surely they should have known the connection. However, they were blind and could not hear the truth. They were fixated on their hate.

**Authority**

Our only authority comes from God. We Believers have no

authority on our own. Jesus points to His own authority as a man and directs our attention to God. This is a challenging reality for many to comprehend. God incarnated Himself as one of us who is named Jesus to live our lives but not sin. God models His original plan for man. Adam failed, and Jesus succeeds.

**Matthew 7:29** for He was teaching them as *one* having authority, and not as their scribes.

**Matthew 9:6-8** 6 "But in order that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins "-- then He said to the paralytic-- "Rise, take up your bed, and go home." 7 And he rose, and went home. 8 But when the multitudes saw *this*, they were filled with awe, and glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

**Matthew 10:1** And having summoned His twelve disciples, He gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness. (Matthew 10:1)

**Matthew 28:18-20** 18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

 19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

**John 19:10-12** 10 Pilate therefore said to Him, "You do not speak to me? Do You not know that I have authority to release You, and I have authority to crucify You?"

 11 Jesus answered, "You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above; for this reason he who delivered Me up to you has *the* greater sin."

 12 As a result of this Pilate made efforts to release Him, but the Jews cried out, saying, "If you release this Man, you are no friend of Caesar; everyone who makes himself out *to be* a king opposes Caesar."

**Romans 13:1-4 1** Let every person be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.

 2 Therefore he who resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves.

 3 For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same;

 4 for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath upon the one who practices evil.

It is most unfortunate that the first Adam failed. God’s love gave Adam the choice to follow him freely. Jesus demonstrated this same choice in the test in the wilderness in Matthew 4 and in the Garden of Gethsemane before He goes to the Cross. Jesus succeeds. I see that the difference between Adam and Jesus is the emphasis on God’s Spirit being in a man. Jesus was the full Spirit-embodiment of God. Man cannot be victorious without God’s Spirit living indwelling them. Of course, God knew this and was willing to give man the choice. There cannot be any greater emphasis in stating that love is a choice. Without the choice to respond to God, we would be just robots and never experience real love. God holds His authority of love and extends his loving authority to us. We then operate in this life spreading His Good News. I am your God, and you are my people.

Here are passages of Scripture detailing Adam as the first man, and Jesus, the second man, is the spirit-man.

**1 Corinthians 15:45-49**

45 So also it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul." The last Adam *became* a life-giving spirit.

 46 However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual.

 47 The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven.

 48 As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly.

 49 And just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

**1 Corinthians 15:20-22**  20 But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. 21 For since by a man *came* death, by a man also *came* the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive.

We are observing Father’s Day today, June 17 in the year of our Lord 2018. Authority in a father is at the center of being a man who is under the love of God. This starts with a man’s recognition, his surrender, his pursuance, his heart-drive to be the man God has called him to be. Under God’s plan, there isn’t any other kind of father a man should be than a father under God’s authority.

**Ephesians 5:1-2 1** Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; 2 and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you, and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

 **Ephesians 5:25-27**

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her;

 26 that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

 27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless.

This sermon is about Jesus and His authority. We as Believers, parents, mothers and fathers have authority give to us by God. Below is an acronym for the word AUTHORUTY

**AUTHORITY**

**A**dvocate your fatherhood as being under God

**U**nity in Spirit with God

**T**each God’s Word

**H**onor God’s presence in the life of your family

**O**pen your heart to God constantly

**R**emember God has plan for your life

**I**nstruct your children in the ways of the Lord

**T**rust in God’s Spirit to guide you daily

**Y**earn to grow closer to God everyday