



06.20.10/ Mark 11:1-11

### Materials

A crown, hat, medal, etc. that says “Happy Birthday.” Two palm branches – one fresh and green, the other old and brown (or any other kind of plant, etc.). Palm branches are only suggested because they are used in the passage.

### Opening Discussion

Hold up the “Happy Birthday” prop. Ask students what it is like to have a birthday in their house. Answers will probably involve doing something special, like a party, opening presents, or choosing a family activity, etc. Birthdays are great, and always make the birthday boy or girl feel very special. The only “bad” thing about birthdays is that they only last for one day out of the year. Tell the children that we are going to read a passage where King Jesus was celebrated by everyone like it was His birthday – but unfortunately their celebration only lasted a short time.

### Read Mark 11:1-11

“Now when they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and to Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples 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. If anyone says to you, “Why are you doing this?” say, “The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.” And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. And some of those standing there said to them, “What are you doing, untying that colt?” And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, ‘Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!’ 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.”

### Question 1

**How did the disciples serve Jesus in this passage?** *They obeyed Jesus’ instructions about getting the donkey, even though it may have seemed like a strange job or a dirty task.*

### Question 2

When Jesus asked the disciples to follow him, He didn’t always give them fun and exciting jobs that brought them fame and fortune and made them “look good” to others. He often gave them very simple and humbling tasks that may not have been very glamorous but were very important and were glorifying to the Heavenly Father. **Can you think of some things that you do in your everyday life that can bring glory to Jesus, even though they might not seem that important?** *Let everyone share their answers. Some might include obeying your parents by doing your chores, sharing your toys with your siblings, and telling the truth.*

### Discussion

Show the children the two palm branches (or other plants). Ask them to explain the differences between the two (one is fresh and green, full of life, while the other is brittle and brown, old and dying). Tell the children that these palm branches can remind us of the people that celebrated Jesus as he entered Jerusalem. On Sunday they praised him as their King and Messiah, but by the next Friday, they were shouting to crucify Him! When we look at the fresh palm branch, we are reminded that Jesus is King, and worthy to be praised ALL the time, with every aspect of our lives, and He gives life and freshness to all who truly worship Him. When we look at the dying palm branch, we are reminded of the people that worshipped Jesus one day, when it was popular to do so, only to deny him a week later. Whenever people are apart from Jesus and don’t worship Him, there is no life in them.



**Question 2**

Many times, we too turn away from Jesus. It is easy to celebrate Jesus on Sundays and during Community Group, but what about during the week? **Why do you think it is harder to follow Jesus when we are not at church?** *Possible answers may include – forgetfulness, not around other followers, busy with other things, not studying the Bible, etc.*

**Question 3**

Worshipping Jesus should not be like celebrating a birthday that only lasts for one day out of the year. It should be something that we do all the time! **What are some things that you can do to remind yourself to praise His name every day?** *Possible answers include: reading the Bible, praying, talking to others about Jesus, thanking Jesus with your family, etc.*

**Wrap Up**

As you close in prayer, ask God to help you see even your everyday activities as opportunities to serve Jesus as well as your community. Pray that God would remind us daily of the sacrifice that Jesus made in dying on the cross for our sins, and that we wouldn't forget about following Jesus even when we are not at church. Pray that God would change your heart and strengthen you to worship Him every day, all the time!