

WEEK FORTY-FOUR INTRODUCTION

What does Jesus do and say the week before His crucifixion? Who does He interact with? What teaching does He entrust to His disciples? These final days of Jesus' earthly ministry possess great treasures. This week's reading begins with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and carries us to the brink of His arrest. In these chapters Jesus confronts the religious authorities in decisive ways. These confrontations, and Jesus' claims amid them, cement their resolve to kill Him. Jesus' authority is on display as He is recognized by some to be the Messiah. These passages confront the contemporary reader as well. Will we accept Christ as He is, claims to divinity and exclusivity and all, or will we, like the first century religious leaders, reject Him?

KEY SCRIPTURE

*Jesus answered, 'The most important is **Listen, Israel! The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.** The second is, **Love your neighbor as yourself.** There is no other command greater than these.'*

– Mark 12:29-31 CSB

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What is the significance of Luke 19:32, “*So those who were sent left and found it just as he had told them*”? How does this episode showcase Jesus' prophetic office and ministry? How does this scene foreshadow Jesus' initiative and control of the events to follow?

Why does Jesus cleanse the temple in Matthew 21:12-13 (Mark 11:15-18; Luke 19:45-46)? What indictment does He level against them? What Scripture does He quote?

According to John 12:47, why has Jesus come? How has Jesus' mission impacted you? How does His mission continue to shape your life?

What is the most important commandment according to Jesus in Mark 12:29-30? What is the second most important? How do these two commands relate to one another? How does Jesus obey them? Consider your own life, how does Jesus' obedience here impact your life? How then do you get to live?

Of whom does Jesus warn His disciples in Luke 20:45-47? What is the issue?

The Lord's Supper is a profound gift Jesus has given to His Church. What do you learn about this Supper from Christ's first serving of it as recorded in Matthew 26:26-30? What do the elements represent? What does the Supper help us remember?

How are all three persons of the Trinity at work in John 14:20? What significance does that have for you? How does God's work in this way shape your life?

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

“If you love me, you will keep my commands.” -**Jesus in John 14:15 CSB**

How does your love influence your action? Where is the love of Jesus observable in your life? Where *should* it be seen? Ask God for help to grow to demonstrate Jesus more and more in all of life.