The Quiet Before the Storm
Mark 11:1-11

INTRO:

Most of our relationships have an ebb and flow.

• We can love someone passionately and have an argument with that same person…all on the same day.
• We can love our work and hate the job we’re doing right now.
• We can love a class or subject but thoroughly dislike the current assignment.
• We can be thoroughly committed to supporting our church, but not be in agreement with some decision or some person in the church.
• We can be proud of our children and discipline them at the same time.
• We have a great capacity to juggle incompatible emotions and feelings.
• It should be no surprise that Jesus and his followers juggled the same kinds of incompatible emotions.

I. The Quiet (vs. 11:1-11)

In some ways, this was the epitome of Jesus ministry up to this point

• Jesus’ instructions about finding the un-ridden donkey’s colt were accurate to the letter.
• Jesus successfully rode the colt that had never been ridden—not an every day event!
• Many people participated in the parade spreading their cloaks and branches on the road.
• The road is a very steep road and one would think that the cloaks and branches would have hindered a safe journey down the cobblestone path—but it didn’t seem to do so.
• Everyone in front of Jesus and behind Jesus were shouting “hosanna” as if they knew this Jesus was the Messiah.
• Having been the center of attention for the parade that entered Jerusalem that day, Jesus quietly enters the Temple, then goes back over the hill to Bethany to spend the night.

What is interesting is what doesn’t happen that day…

• Jesus does no teaching in the Temple
• Jesus performs no miracles before the people
• Jesus casts out no demons
• Jesus heals no diseases
• Jesus has no controversies with Jewish leaders
• Jesus has no conversations with curious or needy people
• He enters the city triumphantly, goes into the Temple, then returns to Bethany with the disciples to spend the night.
• This is the quiet before the storm.
II. The Storm begins the next day and gets worse all week long  (chs. 12-14)

A. There were the storms that Jesus Initiated
   • 11:12 He CURSES the fig tree
   • 11:15 He CLEARS the Temple
   • 12:1 CORNERSTONE story—farmers rejected heir
   • 12:35 He CAUTIONS about teachers of religious law
   • 12:41 The COLLECTION Box example
   • 13:1 CAUTIONS about the future
   • 14:12 CELEBRATION of Passover and predictions of betrayal and denial
   • 14:32 CRUSHED soul of Jesus has no one to stay awake and pray with him.

B. There were the storms that other people Initiated
   • 11:27 They CHALLENGE his authority
   • 12:13 CAESAR’S taxes are questioned
   • 12:18 CONTROVERSY over the Resurrection
   • 12:28 The COMMANDMENTS are questioned
   • 14:1 The CAPTURE of Jesus is planned
   • 14:3 The CONTROVERSY over anointing Jesus’ feet
   • 14:43 CONFLICT in the Garden—The Betrayal and Arrest
   • 14:53 Judgment before the COUNCIL
   • 14:66 COURTYARD denial of Jesus by Peter
   • 15:1 CRUCIFIXION demanded at Pilate’s court
   • 15:16 The Soldiers mock Jesus by CROWING him with thorns
   • 15:21 The CRUCIFIXION

It was a very stormy week—
   ○ It began with crowds of people singing the praises of Jesus
   ○ It ended with no one willing to stand with and be identified with Him.

CONCLUSION:
There are times we want to shout His praises and wave our palm branches, letting the whole world know that Jesus is King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Have you also known those times when you would rather not be identified with Jesus—you’d rather just watch from a distance?

It is for those sins…and many others that he died—he has paid the price for our forgiveness. All we have to do is accept it.

I invite you this week to let it be a week where you are not ashamed to be counted among the followers of Jesus!

Can you say, “Jesus is Lord!”?

Wait for response...

Now go and live like it…for the glory of God!