



## SESSION 9 | MARCH 6, 2022

### BEFORE VIEWING THE SESSION

This session looks at Jesus as He enters Jerusalem on His purposeful mission to the cross. The crowd has expectations, and the Pharisees are planning confrontations. The disciples are hoping for a coronation.

Here are a few important things to look for in Francis' teaching. As you watch, pay attention to how he answers the following questions:

- What were the people expecting when they welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem?
- How did Jesus confront the religious leaders when He got to Jerusalem?
- What did Jesus say was the destiny of His followers?

### WATCH SESSION 9 | MARK 11:1–13:37 (8 minutes)

#### RightNow Media Video: Session 9

Francis explained the gravity of what faced Jesus' followers after his crucifixion. In the days preceding his death, Jesus taught them to expect hardship, rejection, and persecution because of their devotion to Him. How does Francis describe Jesus' last messages to His disciples? How often do you hear preaching that reflects this message of surrender and suffering as opposed to the message that God wants you to be healthy and wealthy?

### READ MARK 11.

- What were the people expecting when they welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem?
- Was anything wrong with what the people hoped for?
- Many Christians pray that Jesus will return and right all that's wrong in the world. Why do you think He's waiting to return?
- If the cursing and withering of the fig tree is read as a parable, what is its meaning? (11:12–14, 20–21)

### READ MARK 12.

- How did Jesus react to the verbal traps of the Pharisees, Herodians, Sadducees, and a teacher of the law—all very powerful people (12:13–34)?
- What kind of opposition have you faced from powerful people in your family, neighborhood, work, or elsewhere?
- How can “two mites” be more than “large amounts”? (12:41–44) What does that prescribe for us?

### SESSION GOALS

**Main Idea:** The world's view of power differs drastically from Jesus' example of the king coming to sacrifice and serve.

**Head Change:** To understand that Jesus' view of power flips the world's view on its head.

**Heart Change:** To feel peace in the midst of persecution, knowing Jesus is with us.

**Life Change:** To shape our day-to-day lives to always be prepared for Jesus' return.

## READ MARK 13.

- We are to be on “watch.” What signs of end times do you see today? (13:3–27)
- If serious persecution arises, what should our testimony be? (13:9–11)
- Practically, how do we live ready for Christ’s return? Discuss in all spheres of your life: work, home, hobbies, etc. (13:32–37)

## FINAL DISCUSSION

The path of discipleship will not be our “best life now.” Jesus gave us fair warning that following Him would require sacrifice, involve suffering, and change our hearts completely. Jesus wants us to shape our lives to look like His—giving of ourselves every day in sacrificial love. That takes intentional thought every minute of the day.

We serve a servant-king. Jesus came not to lord His power over us but to serve us with every scrap of His life. He asks that we follow Him and do the same, always prepared to receive Him when he returns. Take a few minutes and think about how you’d respond if Jesus showed up on your doorstep today (if you have time, discuss with your group): **How has following Jesus looked different than you first expected? What circumstances tempted you to give up on Him? What helped firm up your faith instead? What does sacrificial love look like in your relationships?**

## TAKE WITH YOU AS YOU GO

*(Consider using this to guide your prayer as you close your time together)*

Why do we hear more preaching about health, wealth, and prosperity than about service and suffering? *Jesus gave us fair warning that following him would require sacrifice and difficulty.* We follow a king who came not to be served, but to serve. Jesus wants us to shape our lives to look like His. That lifestyle brings real benefits, but not necessarily worldly benefits. How can we live a Jesus-type life?

