

# Mark 11:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when they came nigh to Jerusalem, unto Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount of Olives, he sendeth forth two of his disciples,

## Analysis

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As Jesus approached Jerusalem, 'when they came nigh to Jerusalem, unto Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount of Olives, he sendeth forth two of his disciples' (Ὅτε ἐγγίζουσιν εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα εἰς Βηθφαγὴ καὶ Βηθανίαν πρὸς τὸ ὄρος τῶν Ἐλαιῶν, ἀποστέλλει δύο τῶν μαθητῶν αὐτοῦ). This geographical note marks the beginning of Jesus' passion week. Bethphage and Bethany were villages near Jerusalem on the Mount of Olives' eastern slope. Jesus' approach fulfilled Zechariah 14:4, which prophesied the Messiah would stand on the Mount of Olives. Sending disciples for the colt (vv. 2-6) demonstrates Jesus' foreknowledge and sovereign orchestration of prophetic fulfillment. Everything leading to the cross happened according to divine plan, not random circumstance.

## Historical Context

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The Mount of Olives overlooks Jerusalem from the east, separated by the Kidron Valley. Bethany (meaning 'house of affliction' or 'house of dates') was home to Mary, Martha, and Lazarus (John 11:1), where Jesus stayed during passion week. Bethphage (meaning 'house of unripe figs') was closer to Jerusalem. The Mount of Olives held eschatological significance—Zechariah 14:4 prophesied God would stand there when delivering Jerusalem. Pilgrims approaching Jerusalem for Passover from the east would descend the Mount of Olives, cross Kidron, and enter the city. Jesus deliberately timed His entry for maximum visibility during Passover,

when Jerusalem's population swelled from 50,000 to over 200,000 with pilgrims. This set the stage for His triumphal entry (Mark 11:7-11).

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does Jesus' deliberate approach to Jerusalem via the Mount of Olives fulfill Old Testament prophecy and demonstrate sovereign control over His passion?
2. What does the geographical setting teach about Jesus consciously orchestrating events rather than being victim of circumstances?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ	ὅτε	ἐγγίζουσιν	εἰς	Ἱερουσαλήμ	εἰς	Βηθφαγὴ	καὶ
And	when	they came nigh	to	Jerusalem	to	Bethphage	And
G2532	G3753	G1448	G1519	G2419	G1519	G967	G2532
Βηθανίαν	πρὸς	τὸ	ὄρος	τῶν	Ἐλαιῶν	ἀποστέλλει	δύο
Bethany	at		the mount		of Olives	he sendeth forth	two
G963	G4314	G3588	G3735	G3588	G1636	G649	G1417
τῶν	μαθητῶν	αὐτοῦ					
G3588	disciples	G846					
	G3101						

## Additional Cross-References

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**John 8:1** (Parallel theme): Jesus went unto the mount of Olives.

**Acts 1:12** (References Jerusalem): Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey.

**Mark 14:13** (Parallel theme): And he sendeth forth two of his disciples, and saith unto them, Go ye into the city, and there shall meet you a man bearing a pitcher of water: follow him.

**Zechariah 14:4** (References Jerusalem): And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.

**Matthew 26:30** (Parallel theme): And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.

**Matthew 24:3** (Parallel theme): And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?

**Matthew 21:17** (Parallel theme): And he left them, and went out of the city into Bethany; and he lodged there.