



M A R K

The Gift of God






The Beginning of the End

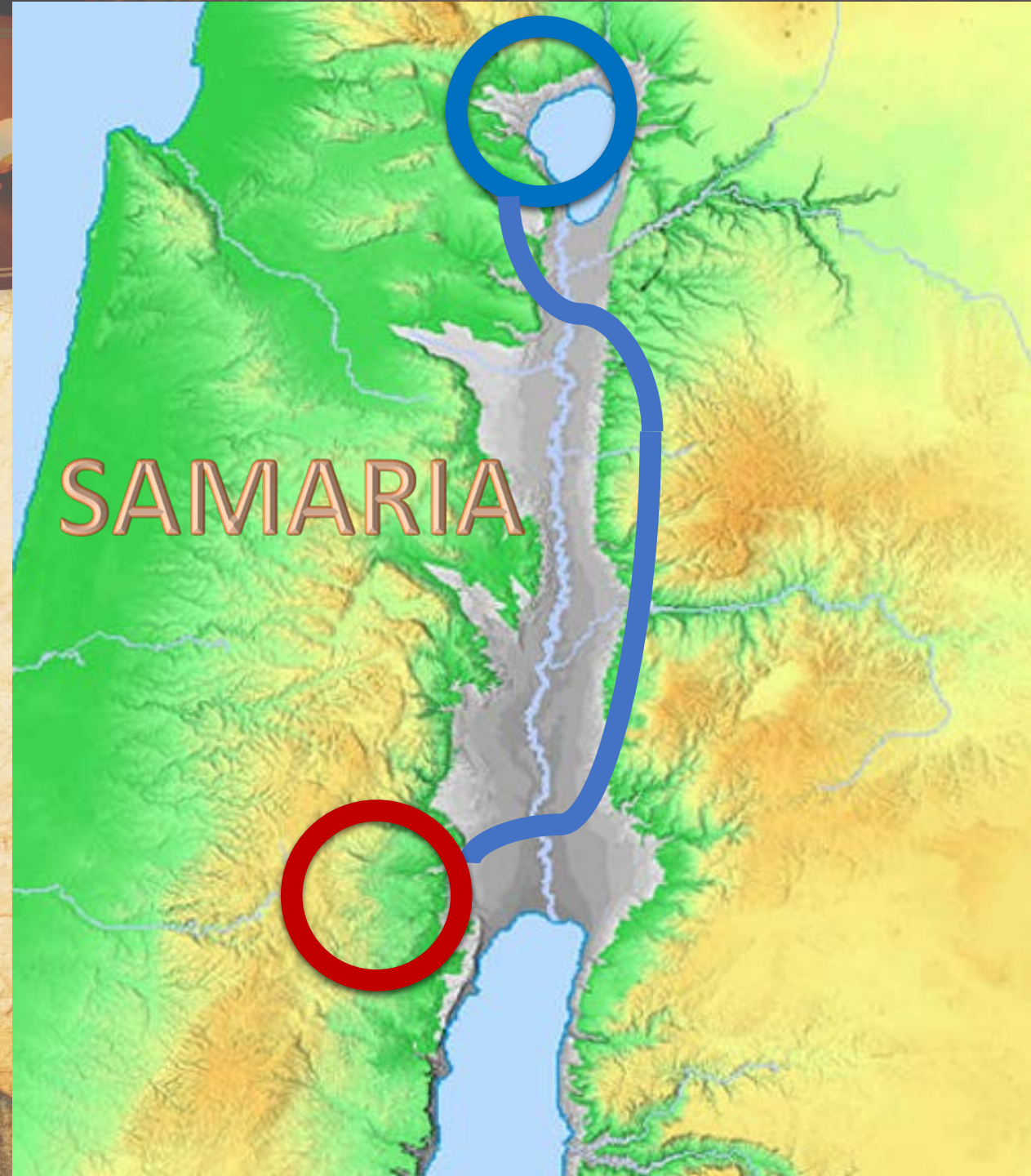
Mark 11:1-26

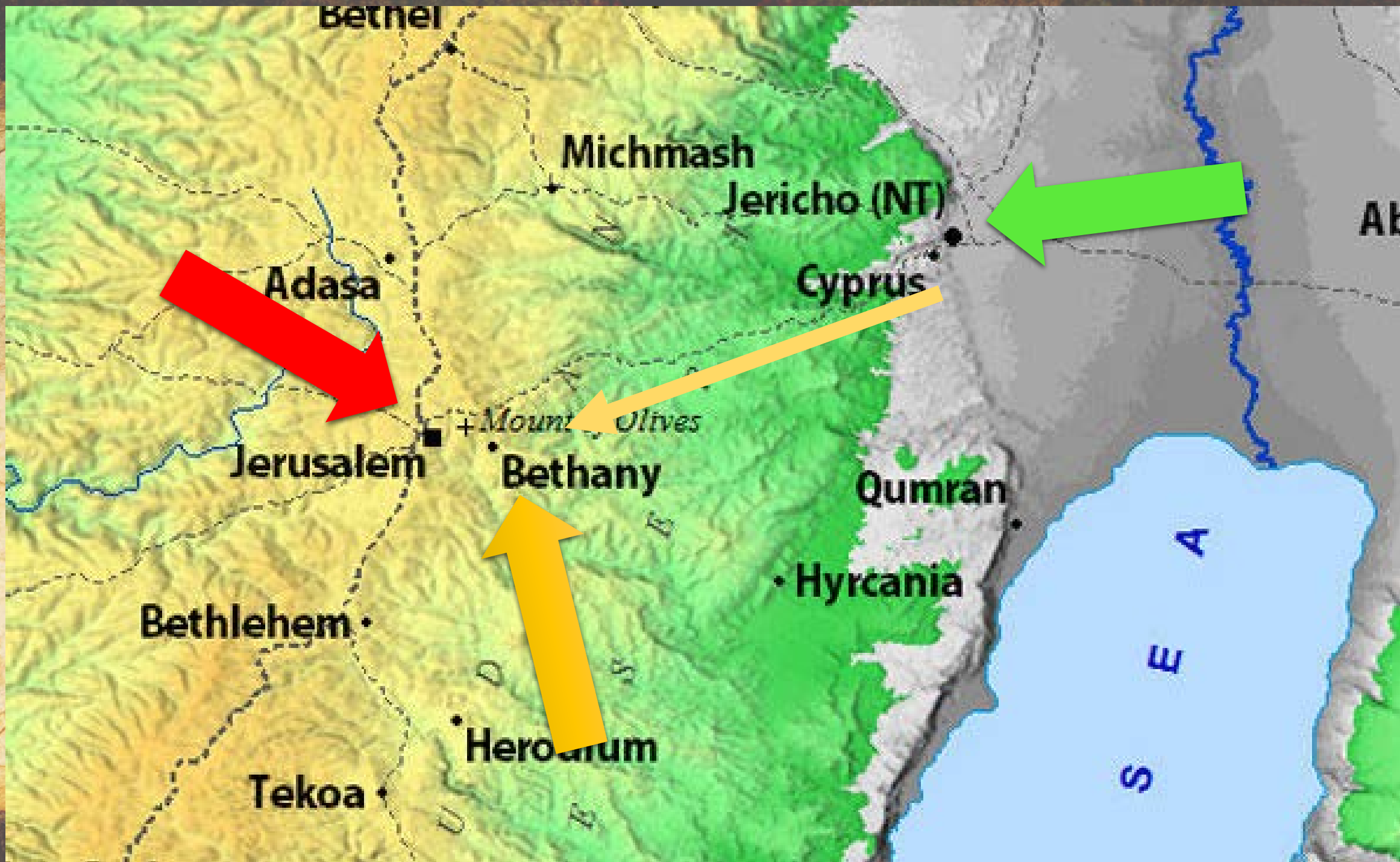
Mark 11:1-26



1. Riding on a Foal (1-10)
2. Looking for Figs (11-19)
3. Teaching about Faith (20-26)

- 
- From Capernaum in Galilee, across the Jordan River, down thru Perea, back across the Jordan, then *up to* Jerusalem





Riding on a Foal



- A colt on which no one yet has ever sat
 - Zech. 9:9; Matt. 21:4-9; John 12:14-15
 - Definite *Messianic* claim
 - Why a donkey? A horse was used for war; a donkey (or mule) for peace
 - He was coming in peace!

Riding on a Foal



- The people recognized His claim, but did not fully understand what was happening
 - “Hosanna” – “Save us!” (Ps. 118:25)
 - “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord” (Ps. 118:26) -> *Messiah*
 - Part of the *Hallel* sung esp. at Passover

Riding on a Foal



- “Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David” -> *right now?*!
- “Hosanna in the highest” – *may heaven hear our cry for deliverance*
- The people were expecting *the kingdom* (8:31-33; 10:32-40; 15:43)

Looking for Figs



- Jesus went to the temple
 - *Reconnaissance mission*
- ...and then left for Bethany (11, 19)
 - For safety – it was not the right time yet

Looking for Figs



- Jesus returned for *spring cleaning* (15)
 - Second time (John 2:13-22 – 1st Passover)
 - Drove out buyers and sellers (15)
 - Would not allow the shortcut (16)
 - Referred to Isa. 56:7; Jer. 7:11
 - Took possession for the whole day (19)

Looking for Figs



- What is the deal with the fig tree? (13)
 - Is this story true? Myth? Embellishment?
 - Uncharacteristic of Jesus?
 - What's the point?

Looking for Figs



- What is the deal with the fig tree? (13)
 - Too early for figs
 - Typically appear before or with the leaves
 - This tree had leaves, so He went to “see if perhaps He would anything on it”
 - The tree promised fruit but had none

Looking for Figs



- *Living parable*

- Jesus went to the tree expecting *fruit* but found only *leaves* (13) and judged it (14)

- Jesus went to the temple expecting *fruit* but found only *leaves* (11) and judged (15)

Looking for Figs



- What fruit did He expect?
 - John preached repentance and the kingdom (Matt. 3:1-12; Mark 1:4-8)
 - Jesus preached repentance and the kingdom (Mark 1:14-15)

Looking for Figs



- What did He find?
 - Extortion and profiteering
 - Must use *temple money* to pay the *temple tax* (Ex. 30:11-16)
 - Must use *unblemished* animals for sacrifices (Lev. 22:18-21)

Looking for Figs



- What happened?
 - “Repent, for the kingdom is at hand”
 - *The kingdom? Yes! Repentance? Well...*
 - *Political without the spiritual*
 - They were willing to *follow behind* as long as He went where they wanted to go



Teaching about Faith

- What is Jesus teaching about faith? (20-26)
 - *Believe and receive*, no matter what? (24)
 - Could the disciples have *prayed* that Jesus would not die? (8:31-33)
 - Can we *pray* Satan into non-existence?
 - The Mount of Olives is still there!



Teaching about Faith

- *Faith* ≠ *wishing or wanting hard enough*
- Faith is a response to *character* and *communication* (see Heb. 11:1-3; Rom. 3)
- Faith is only as good as its object
 - E.g. – faith in a fake bench?



Teaching about Faith

- The *power* of faith rests in the *object* of faith, not the *possessor* or *the faith*
- This is why Jesus says: “Have faith *in God*”
- God honors faith (Matt. 9:27-31)
- God tests our faith to encourage more faith (Heb. 11:17-19; James 1:2-4)



Teaching about Faith

- Faith involves understanding God's agenda
 - Did the Apostle Paul not have enough faith? (2 Cor. 12:7-10; Acts 27:14-44)
 - Did Jesus not have enough faith? (Matt. 26:39)
 - *Rack, Shack, and Benny?* (Dan. 3:16-18)



Teaching about Faith

- God hates and will judge lying / deception (Ps. 5:6; Prov. 12:22; Rev. 21:8; 22:15)
- Jesus' judgment on the deceptive fig tree was in line with God's character & promises
 - As was His judgment in the temple (John 2:17) and on the Nation (Luke 19:41-44)



Teaching about Faith

- Forgive *to be* forgiven? (25; Matt. 6:14-15)
 - Even though we have been *justified*, we still need to confess our sins (1 John 1:9)
 - We are to forgive others as we have been forgiven (Eph. 4:32; Matt. 18:21-35)
 - Forgive *because you have been* forgiven!



So What?

- Am I willing to *follow behind* even if I don't know where He's going?
 - Or *like* where He's going?
- Do I see fruit (like forgiveness) in my life, or just the leaves of *Christianity*?
 - How can I *deny myself* and hold a grudge?

So What?



- Is my faith in the God who has revealed Himself in the Bible?
- Am I expecting anything from God that He never promised or communicated?