



The Book of Mark

Session 9: Mark 11:1 to 12:1-27

Throughout our study in Mark, we've encountered this question: Do you know who Jesus really is? That was what the disciples were trying to get at.

Remember throughout his ministry, Jesus has attracted huge crowds. To the crowds and especially individuals, as he performed miracles he would ask them to be silent. He even asked his disciples to be silent.

Our goals for this week:

1. We want to understand how Jesus's view of how the power flips the world's view on its head.
2. We want to feel peace in the midst of persecution, knowing Jesus is with us.
3. We want to shape our day-to-day lives to always be prepared for Jesus's return.

Question: Think about the word power. How have you seen it displayed well and how have you seen it abused within religion?

Read: Mark 11:1-11

Jesus now arrives in Jerusalem. The final week of ministry before he goes to the mission he came to do (go to a cross). Jesus enters Jerusalem during Passover Week. There are massive crowds with the expectation of the arrival of the King of the Jews.

Question: Read Zechariah 9:9. What are the parallels between this passage and Mark 11:2-3? How could the Jewish people and especially the religious leaders miss the prophetic fulfillment?

Hosanna! "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord", a quotation from Ps. 118:26 singing and praising Jesus.

Question: The crowds were moved in the moment, caught up in the energy. How do crowds even today get caught up in the moment? Give an example.

Read: Mark 11:12-26

As we are seeing in Mark 11, the chapter of purpose. The passage in Mark 11:12-14 makes us scratch our heads. The fig tree stands as a metaphor for Israel and for us. It looked alive, but it didn't have fruit that Jesus expected and desired.

Question: It almost looks like Jesus is giving us a metaphor about fruit on a tree and a person's life. If you bear no fruit, this is no further life. What do you think about that statement?

Only in the book of Mark do we see the detail of vs 16 in which they carried merchandise through the temple courts. It was used as a shortcut.

Question: Are there shortcuts that you try to take in your journey with the Lord?

Jesus was angry at how the chief priests and the teachers of the law were using the House of God for their profit and gain.

Question: Few times do we see Jesus and his anger. It's controlled and only against what is wrong. It wasn't about him. How do you deal with anger? Is it controlled or full of emotion?

The disciples see the withered fig tree the next day. Peter even tells Jesus to look. Jesus's response was "Have faith in God". Jesus tells them in a sense to have faith and believe in your prayers. But if you have unforgiveness towards someone, that hinders the Father's forgiveness towards you.

Question: Is there unforgiveness towards someone in your heart? What steps are you taking to forgive that person?

Read: Mark 11:27-33

Challenged authority. The Sanhedrin were asking "To who's authority do you have that gives you position?" These men were all about their authority and wanted people to know they had position.

Question: Why has authority and position become so important then and even more so today?

They ask a question and Jesus responds with a question. Jesus's question is his authority. Then both his authority and John's baptism came from the Father.

Question: Has anyone questioned your authority in Jesus? Of who you are in Christ?

Read: Mark 12:1-12

Jesus is giving a direct parable to the chief priests and teachers of the law. This ticked them off even more.

Question: How does truth anger us at times? Are we willing to look at it or allow our anger to cover it?

Read Mark 12:13-17

The religious leaders try to set another trap for Jesus about taxes, being cunning in the way they ask the question.

Question: Have you ever been trapped in a question? How did you respond to it? Was it in truth or did you get caught up in the trap?

Read: Mark 12:18-27

Sadducees were the wealthy religious sect of Israel who did not believe in the resurrection. There is irony in why they even asked the question. Again, looking for a way to trap Jesus in their own religious piety.

Important! There is no marriage in heaven. We don't become angels when we die. Jesus makes it clear.

Question: God the Father is not the God of the dead but the living. Why is this essential to our faith?

Jesus is very focused and direct with the religious leaders in what we've read today.

Question: Are we focused in our day to day in what God has planned for your day? What are some of the things that create distractions in your own life?

Assignment: What is your focus in life? Do you know what it is? Write it down so you can make strides towards it.

Next week: Session 10

Read Mark 12:28-13:37