

THE GOSPEL *of*

MARK

Righteous Anger

Last Week.....

- Triumphal Entry – Your King Has Arrived
 - Bethany
 - Open Worship
 - praise
 - procession & proclamation
 - Clear Hostility
 - seeking to destroy Jesus
 - confrontation will happen

Mark 11:12-26 “On the following day, when they came from Bethany, he was hungry. And seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to see if he could find anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. And he said to it, “May no one ever eat fruit from you again.” And his disciples heard it. And they came to Jerusalem. And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold and those who bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. And he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple. And he was teaching them and saying to them, “Is it not written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations’? But you have made it a den of robbers.”

THE GOSPEL of **MARK**

Mark 11:12-26

And the chief priests and the scribes heard it and were seeking a way to destroy him, for they feared him, because all the crowd was astonished at his teaching. And when evening came they went out of the city. As they passed by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered away to its roots. And Peter remembered and said to him, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree that you cursed has withered." And Jesus answered them, "Have faith in God. Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses."

1. The Fig Tree

- love this picture with few details

a) Hungry Jesus

- see's a solution in the distance and heads there
- no figs, not happy – detail about 'not the season'
- commentary – leaves would indicate fruit, just not ready

b) Curses Tree

- not a teaching moment – seems more a mutter

c) Suggestion of Commentary

- represents Israel – importance of fruit

2. The Ruckus at the Temple

a) Important Information

- Jesus had a look the night before – heads there
- set up of the temple – Holy of Holies, outer courts
- business set up would be in the Gentile court
- temple tax – like a ticket or entry, currency issue
- sacrificial animals – necessary for covering of sin, worship
- high priest would sell access, receive a cut of profits

b) Jesus Takes Action

- John 2:15 “And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables”
- drives out those who bought and sold
- not allowed to carry anything through the courts
- obstacles to those who desire to worship & be right with God

c) Jesus Teaches

- quotes two passages that would be familiar

- Isaiah 56:6-8 ““And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it, and holds fast my covenant—these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. ”The Lord God who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares, “I will gather yet others to him besides those already gathered.”

- Jeremiah 7:11 “Has this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, I myself have seen it, declares the Lord.”

d) Response to Jesus

- They Left – those selling, changing money, responded to Jesus authority and left
- They were Amazed – those gathering for Passover, ‘astonished’ at his teaching
- Leaders Furious – seeking to destroy him, feared him and the crowd’s boldness, financial hit

3. Dead Tree

a) Peter notices on the way past

- remembers and points it out

b) Jesus Responds

- 'Have faith in God'
- doesn't mention the tree again, teaches about authority, prayer and the ability of God to do the impossible

4. Difficult Teaching

- “Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and thrown into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.”

a) Two ditches

- name it and claim it
- symbolic and situational, not literal to us

b) direct connection

- believe – will be done, come to pass
- receive – it will be yours
- importance of faith and results directly linked
- doubt is an obstacle, problem

c) impossible is possible with God

- God is able, arm is not too short, authority over all
- you have this power and authority in you, child of God

d) key qualifier

- connection to right relationships and power of prayer
- right relationships with others – forgiveness
- right relationship with God – presence and power, forgiven
- connection to authority and power, forgiveness

e) Helpful Perspective to Passage

- don't build whole theology on one passage or instance, seek to consider the whole counsel of God
- much teaching on authority the believer has in Christ, and the power of God to accomplish His will and work

- Jesus has re-defined Greatness and what we seek

Mk.10:42-45 “And Jesus called them to him and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

- in prayer we align our requests with God's will

- ‘your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven’ Luke 11

So What?

1. Expectation of Fruit is there

- see John 15, pruning for more fruit, cutting off what does not
- simply looking like there should be fruit not enough

2. Righteous Anger a Real Thing

- obstructing people in pursuit of right relationship with God
- profit and motive matter – provision in scripture for those set aside to serve and manage spiritual relationship
- action is sometimes the right response

3. God Does the Impossible

- works with and through his chosen children
- clear authority – you have the living God in you, authority to
- clear connection – when you know God's will, faith, belief and dealing with doubt important
- clear qualifiers – forgiveness and relationship with God and others tied to this power being at work

4. Reflect and Question – Is there Fruit and Power evident in our lives and the life of our church?