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The Gospel of Mark Mark 11:1-25 Pastor Kirk Gambrell

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Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



In this week's passage, Jesus makes his triumphant entry into Jerusalem. During His first few days there He continues to teach His disciples what it means to be a follower of His. In this week's passage, we will focus on the instruction Jesus gives for prayer. Jesus points out the consequences for the dysfunctional areas of the new coming church. We see the passion He has for the place of worship, and we see His rebuke of a fruitless tree. It is our responsibility to be functioning as the church, his bride and to bear fruit for His kingdom. In this process Jesus gives us some encouragement and powerful instruction about how to pray.

Mark 11:1-25 (NET Bible)

The Triumphal Entry

¹ Now as they approached Jerusalem, near Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples ² and said to them, "Go to the village ahead of you. As soon as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. ³ If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here soon.'" ⁴ So they went and found a colt tied at a door, outside in the street, and untied it. ⁵ Some people standing there said to them, "What are you doing, untying that colt?" ⁶ They replied as Jesus had told them, and the bystanders let them go. ⁷ Then they brought the colt to Jesus, threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. ⁸ Many spread their cloaks on the road and others spread branches they had cut in the fields. ⁹ Both those who went ahead and those who followed kept shouting, "**Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!**" ¹⁰ Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!" ¹¹ Then Jesus entered Jerusalem and went to the temple. And after looking around at everything, he went out to Bethany with the twelve since it was already late.

Cursing of the Fig Tree

¹² Now the next day, as they went out from Bethany, he was hungry. ¹³ After noticing in the distance a fig tree with leaves, he went to see if he could find any fruit on it. When he came to it he found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. ¹⁴ He said to it, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again."

And his disciples heard it.

Cleansing the Temple

¹⁵ Then they came to Jerusalem. Jesus entered the temple area and began to drive out those who were selling and buying in the temple courts. He turned over the tables of the money changers and the chairs of those selling doves, ¹⁶ and he would not permit anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts. ¹⁷ Then he began to teach them and said, "Is it not written: '**My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations**'? But you have turned it into **a den of robbers!**" ¹⁸ The chief priests and the experts in the law heard it and they considered how they could assassinate him, for they feared him, because the whole crowd was amazed by his teaching. ¹⁹ When evening came, Jesus and his disciples went out of the city.

The Withered Fig Tree

²⁰ In the morning as they passed by, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots. ²¹ Peter remembered and said to him, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered." ²² Jesus said to them, "Have faith in God. ²³ I tell you the truth, if someone says to this mountain, 'Be lifted up and thrown into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. ²⁴ For this reason I tell you, whatever you pray and ask for, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. ²⁵ Whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven will also forgive you your sins."

● EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passage.

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?
5. What is emphasized?
6. Is there anything in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?
7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

② EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation) (For Community Group discussion)

What does God MEAN?

8. Why did Jesus need to ride in on a colt (donkey)?

9. What was the purpose of cursing the fig tree?

10. Why did Jesus so passionately turn over the tables in the courts of the temple?

11. Can we really have anything we pray for if we believe that we will receive it? What does Jesus mean in verses 23-24?

③ EMBRACE His Word (Application) (For Community Group discussion)

Why does this MATTER to me?

12. How is forgiveness important to our prayer life?

13. What role does faith play in our prayer life?

14. If we pray and then say only if it is in God's will; do our prayers really change anything?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

SERMON NOTES