

FAITH: RIGHTEOUS ANGER
Mark 11:12-19

Open with Praise Time: - *“Legacy of Service”*– Bring ideas to share on how you’ve seen meaning from God as you lived out this week of life.

LESSON PLAN



Connect: an opportunity for people to immediately interact and connect with each other; icebreaker/attention getters.

Ask: What’s the craziest thing you’ve seen for sale in the name of God?

Transition: *We do some insane things at times in the name of faith that I am not all that certain are pleasing to God. In fact, they may just anger Him. Maybe He even expects us to get angry enough to do something when we see His place of worship being used for all the wrong reasons. Let’s see what Jesus can teach us about righteous anger.*

The Bottom Line: Today Jesus wants to teach us about the holiness of God's temple and our attitude toward His Holy temple.

Background – *Jesus has just rode into Jerusalem on the colt of a donkey that has never been ridden. The people went ecstatic proclaiming Him the one who comes in the name of the Lord. It is late and so He goes out to Bethany with the 12 Apostles for the night. Our lesson takes place the morning after the triumphal entry of Jesus as He is heading back into Jerusalem with His apostles.*

Read Mark 11:12-14

1. What are the facts given to us?

Read Mark 11:20-21. We see that between the journey to Jerusalem, going out of the city that night and then back into Jerusalem, the fig tree has died at the roots. How dead is that?

2. What is shocking and seemingly out of character for Jesus? Was He just having a really bad morning?

Jesus knows it is not the season for the tree to have fruit. However, the tree had leafed out which means there should have been some tiny green buds which are bitter but still edible. The tree gave the signs of bearing fruit but had none. It was like false

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advertising. If there were no buds once the leaves came out, then there would be no fruit later.

3. Jesus is creating an object lesson. What lesson do you think Jesus is trying to present to His Apostles?



Do Christians ever give the appearance of bearing fruit and yet not bear it? How does that happen?

4. Could there have been a direct correlation between God's people, Israel, and the reason Jesus displayed this very unusual behavior?

Israel was very much like this tree. She displayed the leaves as if she was the special tree of God and yet the fruit was not there. Jesus is heading in to face the last days of His life on earth at the hands of this fruitless tree. It would be the Jews that would force the Roman's hands to carry out this death sentence.



On a scale of 1 (nothing but leaves) to 10 (branches about to break from so much fruit), how would you look if Jesus were approaching you today?

Now Jesus moves on down the road to Jerusalem. Knowing what lies ahead, Jesus is focused on the Will of God, on the Kingdom He is bringing to earth as it is in Heaven.

Read Mark 11:15-19

Jesus enters the temple area, the temple courts and the sacred grounds. The first part of the courts is the court of the Gentiles. Here He sees pigeons, sheep, and oxen in boxes and crates, people haggling to get the sacrifices they need to offer. There are tables where the Roman money is exchanged for the kosher shekel that was required for the temple tax. Josephus, the Jewish historian points out that merchants were using the temple court of the Gentiles as a shortcut to road leading east over the Mount of Olives. So, Jesus anger is not only against the sellers, but also against the buyers and those using the courts for convenience rather than faith.

1. Make a list of Jesus' actions.

We always think of Jesus making a whip and chasing them out. That is not recorded in Matthew, Mark or Luke. It is only recorded in John 2:13-16. John records this happening near the beginning of Jesus' ministry. He also records Jesus making the whip. It appears that Jesus began and ended His ministry by cleansing the temple. There were about 3 years between the 2 events.

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2. What difference would Jesus having a whip make to the crowd? How does this fact show the righteous anger of Jesus?



What might push Jesus to do such a thing in the church in America?



How would people today use the church to manipulate other people for their own needs?



In Christ we are the temple of the Holy Spirit, God's place of worship. How would we disrespect God's temple?

3. How did the great leaders of God's people respond when Jesus pointed out their mistake?



Interactive Questions for Table Discussion:

1. In what ways do you live a life of sincere worship Monday through Saturday? In what ways would Jesus find your weekday worship offensive?



What lesson do you think Jesus wants us to apply today?



CARING TIME: SHARE AND PRAY

Share the bottom line: Jesus wants us to realize the holiness of God's temple and our attitude toward His Holy temple. We are His temple if we are in Christ. Our daily lives preach Christ's glory or refutes it!

Prayer: Pray to God as a group to bring glory to Christ everyday.