

The Confrontational Jesus

Mark 11:15-24

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I. Overturn the tables. **Mark 11:15-19**

Jesus entered Jerusalem and confronted the bigger issue for His people as He headed toward the Temple, they had _____ God's house, their center of worship.

- By cleansing the Temple, Jesus was exercising His _____ as the Son of the Father, who owned the Temple. **Isaiah 56:7**

Jesus had the heart of a shepherd and when He recognized His sheep being abused, He acted with righteous anger when the religious leaders were _____ people from coming to God.

II. The roots of the Fig Tree. **Mark 11:20-21**

The withered Fig Tree is a picture of Israel having no fruit. Israel's roots had **withered away**, as they _____ themselves from the True and Living God. **Ephesians 3:17-19**

- As His followers, Jesus has called us to bear fruit, but you can't bear _____ with a shallow root system. Our enemy will do everything in his power to uproot us and blow us over.

As persecution takes place in our lives, it can be painful, scary, and incredibly frustrating; but growth through persecution is an _____ part of our spiritual growth with the Lord.

III. The kind of faith that works. **Mark 11:22-24**

Jesus explained this miracle was really the result of _____. Faith is _____ in what the Lord has already promised in His Word.

- *"If you pray hard enough and really believe, God is _____ to answer your prayer no matter what you ask. That kind of faith is not faith in God; rather it is faith in faith, or faith in feelings."*

We are granted citizenship and the privilege of coming before God, because of who we are in Christ. We pray in Jesus' name because it is the _____ entrance we have to come to the Father.

IV. Practical Application.

Jesus was angry when people were kept from coming to or finding the Lord. When the religious leaders would try to _____ a seeker from finding the Lord, Jesus became angry.

- The kingdom is open for all who will by faith, accept the free gift of righteousness, given us by Jesus Christ. Jesus created us to have a _____ relationship with Him!

Small Group Discussion

Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

1. Read **Mark 11:15-19**. This is the second time Jesus cleansed the Temple. Describe your feelings about a gentle Jesus who is passionate enough to flip over tables in the Temple. *Are there any areas of your personal life that Jesus would want to flip over?*
John 2:14-16, Isaiah 56:7, 2 Corinthians 5:20, Psalm 28:7-8
2. *Jesus was outraged that the temple was being used for commerce rather than prayer and worship. Does that same thing happen in our culture today? How? Wiersbe asks, "If the Lord Jesus were to show up in our house of worship, what changes would He make?" What do you think?* (Wiersbe)
3. *Jesus' message and presence conflicted with both the religious and political leaders of His day. In what ways is that still true today?* (Wiersbe)
4. Read **Mark 11:20-21**. In what ways was the Israel of Jesus' day "fruitless"? In what ways can we learn to be more fruitful from the shortcomings of this narrative?
Matthew 28:18-20, Matthew 5:16, Colossians 2:6-7, Ephesians 3:17-19, John 15:1-17
5. Read **Mark 11:22-24**. What did Jesus mean when He told the Disciples to have faith in God? Describe what faith is and what faith is not.
Hebrews 11:1-6, Ephesians 2:9, John 14:12-14, Psalm 37:4
6. Discuss the Practical Application portion of the sermon.