



Week 4: Mark 11:12-25

THE POWER OF PRAYER

After receiving the praises of the people who welcome him as a King during his triumphant entry into Jerusalem, Jesus immediately takes significant actions. He symbolically judges Jerusalem by cursing a fig tree and cleansing the temple. In his teachings, Jesus boldly and authoritatively addresses the religious rulers, who are the main culprits in promoting a commercialized and false form of worship within the temple.

THE SCRIPTURE: MARK 11:12-25

¹² On the following day, when they came from Bethany, he was hungry. ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ And he said to it, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard it. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ And he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple. ¹⁷ 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." ¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ And when evening came they went out of the city. ²⁰ As they passed by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered away to its roots. ²¹ And Peter remembered and said to him, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree that you cursed has withered." ²² And Jesus answered them, "Have faith in God. ²³ 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. ²⁴ Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. ²⁵ 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."

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² Tables were arranged both on the Mount of Olives and within the temple precincts to facilitate pilgrims in converting their currencies into coins required for the annual temple tax. Additionally, these tables served as points of purchase for items such as pigeons, lambs, oil, salt, etc., necessary for various sin and thanksgiving sacrifices outlined in Leviticus (1:14; 5:7, 11; 12:8; 14:22, 30).

LIFEGROUP QUESTIONS: WEEK 4

OPENING QUESTIONS

1. Can you recall a moment in your life when you witnessed something that others claimed was "impossible" happen?"
2. "Impossible" is word we often use in daily usage. How would define this word?

DIVING DEEPER

3. What happens immediately before this passage? Do you feel like this is important in understanding our text?
4. We can divide the passage on the other page into sections that have some parallels. Using the passage separation below, fill in the chart:

	What is Jesus condemning?	Why is he condemning this?
12-14		
15-19		

5. Why does Jesus get so upset that there is money changing hands and things being sold in the Temple? Wasn't this common practice? How might this error be repeated in our churches today?
6. What is the connection between the money changers and Jesus saying, "My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations?"

7. Read John 15:1-17. What kind of fruit is Jesus referring to in John 15:5? Where is God using your life to produce fruit for the Kingdom of God? How can you avoid a similar fate as fruitless Israel?
8. Zeroing in on Mark 11:20-25, what seems to be the key attitude that leads to vitality in our prayers? How do you think one grows in this attitude?
9. If, as the previous question indicates, there is a key attitude that grows prayer, what behavior does Jesus say hinders it from growing? Does this make sense to you?
10. What other kinds of things would serve to stop us praying?
11. How might Mark 11:24 be seriously misunderstood? Consider a close friend of yours who as a new Christian is confused by this verse. How would you explain it to him or her?
12. Reflect on Mark 11:25, where Jesus emphasizes the importance of letting go of grudges during prayer. This is a consistent scriptural theme of maintaining right relationships within the church, as highlighted in passages like Matthew 5:23-24, 18:21-22, and Romans 12:18. Is there anyone in your church with whom you need to restore a right relationship?
13. Is there a circumstance or person in your life that seemed so impossible that you stopped praying? What would that look like for to you step out and pray by faith for this, either for the first time, or again?