

The King comes Have Faith Mark 11:1-25

Share a time when someone turned up and you were under prepared?

Day one: the King Comes

Read Mark 11: 1-11

1. What is the significance of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey? Also see Zech 9:9-11, and what else would this King do?
2. What do the shouts of the crowd tell us about Jesus?

Day two: the Ruined Kingdom

Read Mark 11:12-19.

4. What does Jesus do on day two when he comes back to the temple?
5. In the Old Testament (in Micah 7), the fig tree is likened to Israel, How does the fig tree incident help us to understand what happened in the temple?
6. People had to pay a temple tax and traders sold animals for sacrifices. Much of this activity happened in the court of the Gentiles, which was intended to be a place set aside for people from other nations to pray to the Lord. What does Jesus say the temple should have been?
7. Look up the two Old Testament passages quoted in verse 17 to see what light they shed on the events.
 - Isaiah 56:4-8. What should the temple have been for?

- Jeremiah 7:1-11. Who was Jeremiah prophesying against? And what were they doing wrong?

Day three: the New Kingdom

Read Mark 11:20-25.

8. Jesus condemned the people at the temple because they failed to be what God intended. The fig tree, which represents Israel has withered, but How can people meet God and find forgiveness now according to verse 22-25?

9. Verse 23 is regularly used out of context to say all sorts of unhelpful things about faith. But what is it's meaning in the context of this passage which is all about the King who has come to bring judgement and salvation? Also see Zechariah 14: 3-9 (note in verse 1 what mountain Jesus is on when he says 'this mountain' in verse 23)

Implications

10. How can we make sure we are different to the unfruitful Israelites in this passage?
11. Is your faith in Jesus resulting in fruit for Him in your life? What changes do you need to make to be more fruitful?

Ask God to work in the hearts of the people in your life who are rejecting Jesus (those on your Catch the Vision prayer planner list). Ask God to have mercy on them and to humble them to treat Jesus properly.