

- The church, as a holy temple, ought to be free of prejudice and oppression. We must be certain that we are free of these things, or - similar to how Jesus does in Mark - God will come and run us out of his house.
- James 2; Proverbs 22:22-23, 31:8-9, 14:31; Isaiah 1:16-17

Theme: Cleansing the temple:

- Things that make someone “unclean”/unable to enter the temple in the Old Testament:
 - Leviticus 15, 21, 22
- What cleanses the temple in the Old Testament:
 - Leviticus 16 (Day of Atonement) But even this is only temporary.
- Why does the temple need to be cleansed over and over?
 - It continues to be polluted by sinners 2Chronicles 29. We see the cycle of the Israelites turning away from God, facing affliction, crying out to God, being rescued by Him and praising Him, only to turn back to sin over and over in the OT.

In Mark 11:17, Jesus references Isaiah 56:7 as a rebuke to the Israelites defiling the temple by profiting off of the poor, while foreshadowing the new covenant.

In John 2:19-22 Jesus tells the Jews that when they destroy this temple, in three days He will raise it up. There is a clear shift here. Jesus is no longer referring to the temple building, but to His own body. Jesus understands the human temple built with hands is not sufficient. Sin continued to defile the temple. He is replacing it with a superior temple, His own body, and He will indwell His people.

“Behold the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” John 1:29

“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.” 1Corinthians 6:19-20

Looking Forward: Mark 11:27-33

Gospel of Mark

Responding to the Messiah



Mark 11:11-26

Cursing the Fig Tree

Looking Back: Mark 11:1-11

List some ways we have seen Jesus’ humility so far in Mark:

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Loving God with your actions

- ❑ The apostle Paul reminds us that we are God's temple and God's spirit dwells in us. (1 Cor 3:16-17, 1 Cor 6:19-20) We are to glorify God "in your body". Ask God to reveal if there is anything in your life that dishonors God, and pray that His spirit would do His sanctifying work to cleanse you that you might glorify Him in your life.
- ❑ Jesus taught us in John 15 that He is the "true vine" and that only as we abide in Him we will be fruit and thus glorify the Father. Seek out new ways to "abide" in Him and trust in Him to work through you to live in such a way that brings glory to God.
- ❑ Review the "fruit of the Spirit" vs "works of the flesh" in Galatians chapter 5. Again Paul teaches us that the key to bearing fruit is walking by the Spirit's leading. This "walking" is in our daily lives as we yield to the voice of God's spirit.

Loving God with your heart

- Sometimes, we struggle to see Jesus as the true figure of authority that he is- The truth is that Jesus is the Lord, God of the Universe, creator and sustainer- who humbled himself. In this passage, Jesus clears the temple and curses the fig tree.
 - Read a couple of these passage and reflect on Jesus as THE authority:
 - Mark 11:1-11, Isaiah 6:1-4, Matt 8:23-27, Luke 6:43-49, John 5:24-30, Heb 1:1-4, Rev 17:14

Loving God with your mind

- Look into some of these themes:

Theme: Fruit/Vine

- The picture of a vineyard or garden bearing fruit is a metaphor for the Kingdom of God. This theme runs throughout the Scriptures, as an extension of the picture of the Garden of Eden. The garden/vineyard is the place where God dwells with his people. God is the vinedresser, caring for and nurturing the vines, which are his people. The people grow and bear fruit, both filling and subduing the garden. They create order out of chaos, reflecting the image of God, all to His glory.
- Read Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:8-19; Matthew 21:33-44; Luke 3:4-9; John 15:1-17; Romans 11:13-24; 1 Corinthians 3:5-9; Galatians 5:22-23
- Throwing mountains into the sea is destructive (see Mark 11:23); overturning tables of moneychangers and pruning plants are destructive acts too. But the destruction and pain leads to health and new life. Let us pray that the Lord may put to death what is earthly in us, that we may bear fruit, that the life of Christ may grow in us.
- Abiding in Jesus is the only way for us to produce fruit.

Theme: Injustice/Poor

- Back in the day, people had to go to the temple in order to make atonement for their sins. There were sacrifices they were supposed to bring, but God gave people who could not afford the animals for those sacrifices cheaper options. Those in the temple (the house of God), were using people's love of God and desire to please God to exploit them and make extra money. The poor are easily exploited. The foreigners are easily exploited. The church should not be a place where people are exploited; it's meant to be a place where those who are being oppressed and exploited can come and receive help and honor.