



JUST JESUS: A Journey Through Mark

PART 42 - 11:12-20

Leaves Without Fruit

READ: Mark 11:12–14 AND Jeremiah 8:13

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) What stands out to you about Jesus becoming hungry and approaching the fig tree? Why does Mark include those details?
- 2) Jeremiah 8:13 connects missing figs with judgment. How does that Old Testament background deepen what Jesus is doing with the fig tree?
- 3) Pastor G said: "This tree is falsely advertising maturity without any real fruit. It's projecting productivity that it doesn't actually have." Where do you see that temptation in modern Christian life?
- 4) If Jesus inspected your life today, what "leaves" might look impressive from a distance? What actual fruit would He find?

Sacred Space and Sacred Purpose

READ: Mark 11:15–16 AND Isaiah 56:6–7

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) Why is it significant that Jesus cleanses the Court of the Gentiles rather than the inner sanctuary?
- 2) Isaiah 56 promises welcome for foreigners and outsiders. How does that passage shape the meaning of Jesus' actions in the Temple?
- 3) Pastor G said: "The King is reclaiming sacred space." What does reclaiming sacred space look like in a church? In your personal life?
- 4) Are there ways churches today can unintentionally block the very people God is trying to invite?

A House of Prayer or a Den of Robbers?

READ: Mark 11:17 AND Jeremiah 7:1–11

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) What does Jeremiah 7 reveal about how Israel was misusing the Temple in that generation?
- 2) Jesus quotes both Isaiah and Jeremiah. Why do you think He pairs inclusion ("house of prayer for all nations") with judgment ("den of robbers")?
- 3) Pastor G said: "Jesus was communicating to the Temple leaders, 'You have turned the place meant for repentance into a hiding place for corruption. You are treating the Temple of God like a spiritual safe house where it's okay to commit your crimes.'" How can religious environments become spiritual hiding places where sin is ignored, overlooked, or justified, instead of places of repentance?
- 4) Why do you think truth often provokes resistance rather than repentance?

Withered from the Roots

READ: Mark 11:18–20 AND Matthew 7:16–20

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1) Why were the chief priests and scribes afraid of Jesus? What exactly threatened them?
- 2) Matthew 7 teaches that fruit reveals the true nature of a tree. How does that teaching help interpret the withered fig tree?
- 3) Pastor G said: "We need to prioritize root health over public appearance." What does root health look like in a believer's life? How is that different than external shows of spiritual performance?
- 4) The fig tree withered "from the roots up." What happens in a church or a person when the root system is unhealthy? If we notice that happening what should we do to keep the church or person alive and restore them to health?