



Mark 11

“Why Jesus Chased People Out of a Religious Gathering”

(Mark 11:12-25)

Reading and Study Guide for the week of June 25-July 2, 2023

Memory Verse for the Gospel of Mark: *Jesus called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”* (Mark 8:34)

This week, read Mark 11. On Sunday, July 2: Pastor John will be preaching on the theme, “**Why Jesus Chased People Out of a Religious Gathering**” (Mark 11:12-25). In a shocking encounter, Jesus overturns tables in the temple and drives people away from a place of worship. Jesus will not tolerate His people gathering for their personal benefits while neglecting the missional call to the nations.

Some questions to answer and think about this week with your family or Community Group:

Part 1: v. 12-19

1. If you could change one thing about your church, what would it be?
2. Why did the fig tree have no fruit? ([11:13](#))
3. What did Jesus do to the fig tree? Why? ([11:13-14](#))
4. What do both the cursing of the fig tree and the cleansing of the temple tell us about Jesus’ attitude toward the people of Israel? ([11:13-17](#))
5. The fig tree had leaves but no fruit; what is one area of your life that looks good, but isn’t producing what God wants?
6. How can you grow and become more productive in one of your weak areas?
7. What specific steps can you take this week to concentrate on a weak area of your spiritual life, aiming to bear fruit for the Lord?

Life Application Bible Notes

[11:11-21](#) In this passage, two unusual incidents are related: the cursing of the fig tree and the clearing of the Temple. The cursing of the fig tree was an acted-out parable related to the clearing of the Temple. The Temple was supposed to be a place of worship, but true worship had disappeared. The fig tree showed promise of fruit, but it produced none. Jesus was showing his anger at religious life without substance. If you claim to have faith without putting it to work in your life, you are like the barren fig tree. Genuine faith has great potential; ask God to help you bear fruit for his Kingdom.

[11:15-17](#) Jesus became angry, but he did not sin. There is a place for righteous indignation. Christians are right to be upset about sin and injustice and should take a stand against them.

Unfortunately, believers are often passive about these important issues and instead get angry over personal insults and petty irritations. Make sure your anger is directed toward the right issues.

Part 2: v. 20-26

1. Why is it easy to hold grudges?
2. How did Jesus use a seemingly insignificant event as an opportunity to teach the disciples? ([11:22](#))
3. On what do answers to prayer depend? ([11:22-25](#))
4. How can holding a grudge affect the way God answers prayer? ([11:25](#))
5. Why is it necessary to forgive others for what they have done?
6. When is it difficult for you to forgive others?
7. What can you do today to let go of a grudge or feeling of offense?

Life Application Bible Notes

[11:22, 23](#) The kind of prayer that moves mountains is prayer for the fruitfulness of God's Kingdom. It would seem impossible to move a mountain into the sea, so Jesus used that illustration to show that God can do the impossible. God will answer your prayers but not as a result of your positive mental attitude. Other conditions must be met: (1) You must be a believer; (2) you must not hold a grudge against another person; (3) you must not pray with selfish motives; (4) your request must be for the good of God's Kingdom. To pray effectively, you need faith in God, not faith in the object of your request. If you focus only on your request, you will be left with nothing if your request is refused.

[11:24](#) Jesus, our example, prayed, "Everything is possible for you.... Yet I want your will to be done, not mine" ([14:36](#)). Our prayers are often motivated by our own interests and desires. We like to hear that we can have anything. But Jesus prayed with *God's* interests in mind. When we pray, we can express our desires, but we should want his will above ours. Check yourself to see if your prayers focus on your interests or God's.

[11:25](#) Forgiving others is tough work—so much so that many people would rather do something totally distasteful than offer forgiveness to someone who has wronged them. For a person to pray while bearing a grudge, however, is like a tree sprouting leaves and bearing no fruit ([11:13](#)). True faith changes the heart. Real prayer dismantles pride and vengeance, filling the holes with love. Real faith seeks peace. For our churches to have prayer power, there must be harmony and forgiveness evident in the body of believers. Let go of hurts, abandon grudges, and forgive others.

Mark Study Guide questions and notes are from

