

living
AUTHENTIC
discipleship

FIRST LOOK @ AUGUST 8TH

Mark 11:1-25

What do you sometimes worship more than God?

You will be challenged this week in God's word to evaluate your life and make needed changes as this passage calls Authentic Disciples to *Restored Worship*. Everyone one of us deals with something...how easily can I lay it down to the glory of God?

MONDAY

Mark 11:1-11; Matthew 21:1-11; Luke 19:28-40;
Mark 4:6, 16-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

For all the great enthusiasm at the outset of this story, it ends without much fanfare (compared to Matthew and Luke). Perhaps Mark has in mind the shallow soil from Jesus' parable in chapter 4 and is illustrating how the shallow heart responds to Jesus: enthusiasm followed by apathy.

Has the enthusiasm & affection of your early days in the faith turned to disregard & apathy?

Do worship, scripture, prayer, & service stir & stimulate or do they have no affect?

The only thing that can reignite the flame of your heart is the gospel!
Pray for grace to move your heart from shallow to fruitful.

TUESDAY

Mark 11:12-14; Galatians 5:22-23

Jesus approaches a fig tree attempting to find some fruit but instead finds only leaves. Though it was not season for fully ripened figs, when the tree was in leaf it began to produce small figs. Jesus finds none and therefore curses the tree. A tree that had indications of fruit from a distance had none upon examination.

Are you putting on a façade and giving indications of the fruit of repentance from a distance? In what specific areas...?

Upon close examination would fruit be found consistent with repentance & faith in your life? Be specific.

WEDNESDAY

Mark 11:15-19

Jesus cleanses the temple on account of the inequity and injustice being practiced in her courts. He does not drive out the non-religious but the religious; not those who are perceived to be on the outside, but those perceived to be on the inside; not the Gentiles & foreigners, but the Jews & "citizens". In essence Jesus does not clear the temple of the Outsiders, but for the Outsiders.

What needs to be "cleared" from "the church" for the outsiders in our culture?

What needs to be "cleared" from "your church" for the outsiders in your community?

THURSDAY

Mark 11:20-25

The disciples observe that the fig tree has withered and Jesus says in essence, "take your eyes off the tree and put them on me". The tree represents the way of life in the Jewish culture as it centered on the temple.

Jesus cursing of the tree & cleansing of the temple were one in the same. Jesus says this way of relating to God through the temple and the sacrifices has come to an end. He says that with our eyes on him amazing things can be accomplished.

Where are your eyes fixed?

What might Jesus do in your life, your church, and your community if you look to Him, ask of Him, and do not doubt that He is able to do it?

FRIDAY

Mark 11:1-25

After re-reading this passage journal questions that come to mind or truths that stand out.

Pray through those questions and thoughts asking God for clarity on the questions and grace to live out the truths.