

mark

COME FOLLOW ME

Turning the Tables to Follow Jesus (Mk 11:1-25)

And he was teaching them and saying to them, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations'?"

The way Jesus enters Jerusalem shows...

He is no ordinary _____.

He is no ordinary _____.

The way Jesus curses the fig tree shows...

He has his eye on the people _____.

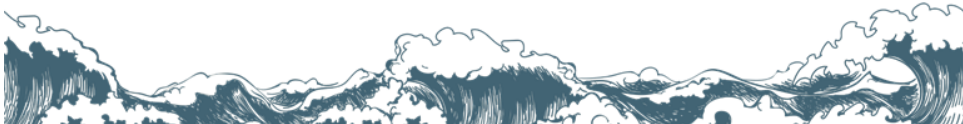
He is looking for the presence _____.

The issue Jesus confronts at the temple is that...

It was meant to serve as a place of worship for _____.

BUT INSTEAD

It was being employed as a means of personal _____.



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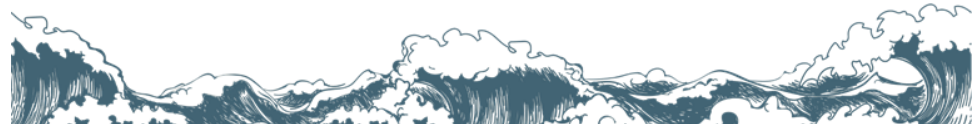
He is looking for the presence _____.

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It was being employed as a means of personal _____.



¹Now when they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples ²and said to them, “Go into the village in front of you, and immediately as you enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. ³If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord has need of it and will send it back here immediately.’ ”

⁴And they went away and found a colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they untied it. ⁵And some of those standing there said to them, “What are you doing, untying the colt?” ⁶And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. ⁷And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. ⁸And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. ⁹And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! ¹⁰Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!”

¹¹And he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple. And when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve. ¹²On the following day, when they came from Bethany, he was hungry. ¹³And seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to see if he could find anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. ¹⁴And he said to it, “May no one ever eat fruit from you again.” And his disciples heard it.

¹⁵And they came to Jerusalem. And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold and those who bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. ¹⁶And he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple. ¹⁷And he was teaching them and saying to them, “Is it not written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations’? But you have made it a den of robbers.” ¹⁸And the chief priests and the scribes heard it and were seeking a way to destroy him, for they feared him, because all the crowd was astonished at his teaching. ¹⁹And when evening came they went out of the city.

²⁰As they passed by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered away to its roots. ²¹And Peter remembered and said to him, “Rabbi, look! The fig tree that you cursed has withered.” ²²And Jesus answered them, “Have faith in God. ²³Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and thrown into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him. ²⁴Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. ²⁵And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.”

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Turning the Tables to Follow Jesus

March 13, 2022



Open: Can you think of a time when you had to rearrange the furniture in your home? What prompted the change? Were you happy with the outcome?

Read & Discuss: Mark 11:1-11

1. Jesus' entry to Jerusalem depicted in Mark 11:1-11 is often referred to as the "Triumphal Entry." What are some things in the passage that strike a triumphant and celebratory tone?
2. Though it may seem odd that Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey, the parallel passage in Matthew 21:1-9 says this was a fulfillment of what the prophet Zechariah said in 9:9. What do the words of Zechariah 9:9 tell us about Jesus' identity and disposition?
3. Mark notes in verses 9-10 that the people around Jesus invoked the words of Psalm 118:25. Given the broader context of Psalm 118:19-27 and Zechariah 9:9-13, what do you think the people were expecting from Jesus as he entered the capital city of Jerusalem? How are we likely to impose our own potentially unbiblical expectations on Jesus today?

Read & Discuss: Mark 11:12-14, 20-21

4. Many scholars believe the cursing of the fig tree was meant as a living parable on the spiritual condition of Israel. (*See Jeremiah 8:13, Hosea 9:10,16; Joel 1:7.*) If that's true, what was Israel's problem, and what will it lead to?
5. Jesus also spoke harsh words to his Church in Revelation. Looking, for example, at Revelation 3:1-6, 15-22, what is similar and what is different between Jesus' words to the churches in Revelation and the judgment of Israel prefigured in the cursing of the fig tree here in Mark?

Read & Discuss: Mark 11:15-19

6. Does the way in which Jesus cleared the temple make you uncomfortable, or could you "defend" his actions? In Mark 11:17, Jesus cites Isaiah 56:6-8 to justify the actions he took in clearing the temple. What do these verses emphasize about God's intention for the temple, his dwelling place? How should we apply this warning in our context?
7. Given God's purpose to draw "all peoples" to himself, if Jesus were to "show up" at our Sunday gathering, what do you think he would commend and what would he condemn? Is there any way in which you are seeking "personal enrichment" or holding to personal preferences that you should let go of in order to help rather than hinder "all peoples" from worshipping God?

Pray: Ask God to help us make our church worship environment a place where all feel welcome.

Mark 11:1-21

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Zechariah 9:9

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!

Behold, your king is coming to you;

righteous and having salvation is he,

humble and mounted on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey. (ESV)