

Mark 11.12-33

Prophet, Priest, and King

Passage Today NOT the BRIGHTEST Side of the Gospel Story

GOOD NEWS is only GOOD because it saves us from BAD THINGS

DIVINE POWER of Jesus thus far seen in Mark > BLESSING & HEALING

NOW we See His Righteous Power to DESTROY and CURSE

Text > REMINDS is Possible to be on WRONG SIDE of God's MERCY

- 1. Revelation of Jesus
- 2. Response to Jesus

1. Revelation of Jesus

Important TRUTH of CHRISTOLOGY > REVEALED within TEXT

Jesus 3 OFFICES > PROPHET, PRIEST, & KING > **Teacher, Savior, & Ruler**

a. Message of a Prophet – *Speak to the People for God*

1) Received the Word of God : NATIONAL TREASURE of Israel God & Word

What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the *LORD our God is near* us whenever we pray to him? And what other nation is so great as to have such righteous decrees and laws as this body of laws I am setting before you today?

Deuteronomy 4:7-8

v. 17 And as he taught them, he said, "Is it not written...

'taught' = CONTINUED TEACHING: Systematic PLAN of TEACHING Scripture

BEGINNING of GOSPEL > Jesus ESTABLISHED Himself as Faithful Teacher

They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. Mark 1:21-23

A large crowd came to him, and he began to teach them. Mark 2:13

Again Jesus began to teach by the lake. The crowd that gathered around him was so large... Mark 4:1

When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. "Where did this man get these things?" they asked. "What's this wisdom that has been given him, that he even does miracles!" Mark 6:2

Again crowds of people came to him, and as was his custom, he taught them. Mark 10:1

2) Rebelled against God

vs. 27,28 They arrived again in Jerusalem, and while Jesus was walking in the temple courts, the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders came to him. "By what authority are you doing these things?" they asked. "And who gave you authority to do this?"

Three LEADING GROUPS of SANHEDRIN > All the RELIGIOUS LEADERS
RIGHT for them to INVESTIGATE His AUTHORITY > PROTECT the FLOCK
JESUS – NOT Graduate from their Seminary – Ordained in their Denomination

He performs OFFICIAL ACTS but has NO OFFICIAL STATUS

OBEDIENCE is NECESSARY for TRUE UNDERSTANDING of God
THEY Prove their UNWILLINGNESS to OBEY > thus, FAIL to UNDERSTAND
If anyone chooses to do God's will, he will find out whether my teaching comes
from God or whether I speak on my own. John 7.17

v. 12 The next day as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry.

HOUSEHOLD in BETHANY > 13 Extra Hungry Men – NOT Enough FOOD

v. 13 Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to find out if it had any fruit. When he reached it, *he found nothing but leaves*, because it was not the season for figs.

Jesus was COUNTRY BOY > Knew about TREES and FRUIT

"Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near." Mark 13:28

ENACTED PARABLE // OT Prophets > DRAMATIC Acts to Illustrate the WORD
ISAIAH – Walked around BOTTOMLESS & BAREFOOT for THREE Years

JEREMIAH – Buried LINEN Belts and Broke CERAMICS > a Real Crack-Pot

EZEKIEL – Tied Up w/ ROPES and BUILT & BROKE Toy City out of CLAY

NOT SEASON for FRUIT > BUT FRUIT from ISRAEL was LONG OVERDUE

FIG TREE > Symbol of NATION of ISRAEL

UNFAITHFUL Wife of Hosea // UNFAITHFUL Nation of ISRAEL

"when I saw your fathers, it was like seeing the *early fruit on the fig tree*. But when they came to Baal Peor, they consecrated themselves to that *shameful idol* and became as vile as the thing they loved. Hosea 9:10

From ENTHUSIASTIC EXPECTATION to BITTER DISAPPOINTMENT

From FAITHFULNESS to FOOLISHNESS/ turned from God of ISRAEL to IDOL

What misery is mine! I am like one who gathers summer fruit at the gleaning of the vineyard; there is...*none of the early figs* that I crave. The *godly have been swept from the land; not one upright man remains.* Micah 7:1,2

Israel did NOT Produce the FRUIT of RIGHTEOUSNESS that God REQUIRED PLANTED by God – NURTURED by God’s Servants > Completely FRUITLESS

3) Rejected by God

v. 14 Then he said to the tree, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard him say it.

**Jesus ALWAYS in Complete CONTROL of SELF and the SITUATION
NOT About the TREE > SYMBOL > of FRUITLESS NATION of Israel
ONLY 2 DESTRUCTIVE Nature Miracles in Mark > Tree & Demons into Pigs
BOTH are SIGNS of God's JUDGMENT**

SANDWICHES Story of TREE round CLEANSING of Temple: ISRAEL Judged vs. 19,20 When evening came, they went out of the city. In the morning, as they went along, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots.

WITHERED from ROOTS > Fulfilled WORDS of John the BAPTIZER
The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. Matthew 3.10

LOST Contact with LIFE-GIVING God – His LIFE STOPS Running Thru VEINS
v. 21 ...The fig tree you cursed has withered!

NOT a CALLOUS WORK of Jesus > COMPASSIONATE WARNING
WAKE UP! If I can DESTROY the SYMBOL of your Nation – FIG TREE
Just as EASY to SPEAK DESTRUCTION of the CITIZENS of Nation Israel
In this context the fig tree symbolizes Israel in Jesus' day, and what happens to the tree pictured the terrible fate that inevitably awaited Jerusalem. William Lane

b. Mercy of a Priest – *Sanctify the People for God*

1) Plan of God - TEMPLE > Center of JEWISH LIFE and RELIGION

v. 17 And as he taught them, he said, "Is it not written: "'My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations'?

King Solomon's Temple Dedication Prayer: "As for the foreigner who does not belong to your people Israel but has come from a distant land because of your name - for men will hear of your great name and your mighty hand and your outstretched arm - when he comes and prays toward this temple, then hear from heaven, your dwelling place, and do whatever the foreigner asks of you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you...and may know that this house I have built bears your Name." 1 Kings 8:41-43

OCCASION of TEXT > Feast of PASSOVER > Faithful Jews to JERUSALEM
ANIMALS and BIRDS > NECESSARY for ANIMAL SACRIFICES
MONEY CHANGERS > Jews from Around Medit. World > pay TEMPLE TAX
Provided CONVENIENT PLACE to get the NECESSITIES for WORSHIP
Come to ICF at ATF Bank > Not Enough Money for Offering?? > Go to ATM!!

2) Perversion

Any GOD-FEARING PRIEST SHOULD have DONE what JESUS Did that DAY
 Place BECOME VERY FAR from What GOD INTENDED His HOUSE to BE
 v. 15 the temple area...those who were buying and selling there...the money
 changers...those selling doves,

PILGRIMS brought OWN ANIMALS from HOME > Needed INSPECTION
 Often FOUND UNACCEPTABLE / DEFECTIVE > Not Able to SACRIFICE
 GOOD LUCK! We have some HIGH QUALITY Animals for HIGH PRICE!!

THEN as TODAY in Almaty > RATES were CONSTANTLY Changing
 Money CHANGERS worked HARD to WORK it ALL to their ADVANTAGE

High Priest OWNED SHOPS in the Temple Area > Near Court of Gentiles
 PROFIT was MORE IMPORTANT than the PEOPLES of the NATIONS
 HUGE Profits > More than 3000 Sheep SOLD DAILY > What Sounds! Smells!!

DOVES: Sacrifices for POOR PEOPLE – brought by Joseph & Mary & Baby Jesus
 ESPECIALLY GRIEVED Lord Jesus > Rich EXPLOITED Poor
 Became CORRUPTED and OFFENSIVE in the Sight of God
 SALES became more IMPORTANT than SACRIFICES / Dollars NOT Devotion

v. 17 And as he taught them, he said, "Is it not written: ""My house will be called
 a house of prayer for all nations'? But you have made it 'a den of robbers.'""

A den of thieves is the place where thieves run when they want to hide.

G. Campbell Morgan

"The multitude of your sacrifices-- what are they to me?" says the LORD...When you come to appear before me, who has asked this of you, this trampling of my courts? Stop bringing meaningless offerings!...When you spread out your hands in prayer, I will hide my eyes from you; even if you offer many prayers, I will not listen. Your hands are full of blood; wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight!

Isaiah 1.10-16

3) Purification

"Because of their sinful deeds, *I will drive them out of my house.* I will no longer love them; *all their leaders are rebellious.* Ephraim is blighted, their *root is withered,* they *yield no fruit.*

Hosea 9:15-16

vs. 15,16 Jesus entered the temple area and began driving out those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves, and would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts.

THEY FAILED their Priestly Duty > So GOD SENT HIS OWN PRIEST - Suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty. But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? Malachi 3:1-2

Here Jesus' holy wrath burned with frightening purity. Single-handed, he restored the place to its original purpose. As the true priest in the temple of God, he cleansed it for prayer.

Sinclair Ferguson

MARK: Written for GENTILE Audience > Emphasizes Jesus' Concern for THEM
 Mark does NOT Emphasize IMPORTANCE of Temple as much as MATTHEW
 Mark > M FOCUS on SYNAGOGUES on REGIONS BEYOND Jerusalem

God came to TEMPLE LOOKING for SPIRITUAL FRUIT but it was BARREN
 As he was leaving the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher!
 What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!" "Do you see all these great
 buildings?" replied Jesus. "Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will
 be thrown down." Mark 13:1-2

Mark 11.12-14	Curse on Fruitless Tree / Nation
Mark 11.15-19	Cleansing for Faithless Temple / Nation
Mark 11.20-25	Closure for Finished Tribe / Nation

Before we quickly condemn the Jewish religious leaders for their sins, we should examine our own ministries to see if perhaps we are making merchandise of the Gospel. Do the outsiders in our community think of our church buildings as houses of prayer? Are all nations welcomed there? Do we as church members flee to church on Sundays in an attempt to cover up our sins? Do we 'go to church' in order to maintain our reputation or to worship and glorify God? If the Lord Jesus were to show up in our house of worship, what changes would He make?

Warren Wiersbe

v. 18 The chief priests and the teachers of the law heard this and began looking for a way to kill him, for they feared him, because the whole crowd was amazed at his teaching.

Jesus CONCERN for GENTILES > Connected to HIS DEATH

Jesus REMAINS the ONLY TRUE PRIEST of the TRUE HOUSE of God

When Christ came as high priest of the good things that are already here...he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption. Hebrews 9:11-12

AMAZING LOVE! - Merciful God and Savior – BOTH PRIEST and SACRIFICE

c. Majesty of a King – *Sovereign over the People for God*

a) Resistance

v. 27 They arrived again in Jerusalem, and while Jesus was walking in the temple courts, the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders came to him.

3 LEADING GROUPS of SANHEDRIN > All the RELIGIOUS LEADERS
EVIDENCE of GREAT CONCERN Jesus CAUSED for Them > *Really Worried!*

v. 28 "By what authority are you doing these things?" they asked. "And who gave you authority to do this?"

IF Jesus is KING > It is GAME CHANGER > They're ALL OUT of a JOB
BEGINS Section of CHALLENGING QUESTIONS & STORIES in Chapter 12
LEADERS HOPING Jesus would CONDEMN HIMSELF with His OWN WORDS
...they have *rejected the word of the LORD*, what kind of wisdom do they have?
...From the least to the greatest, all are greedy for gain; prophets and priests alike, all practice deceit. They dress the wound of my people as though it were not serious. "Peace, peace," they say, when there is no peace. Are they ashamed of their loathsome conduct? No, they have no shame at all; they do not even know how to blush. So *they will fall among the fallen*; they will be brought down when they are punished, says the LORD. "*I will take away their harvest*, declares the LORD. ..*There will be no figs on the tree, and their leaves will wither.* Jeremiah 8.9-13

b) Repentance

v. 29 Jesus replied, "I will ask you one question. Answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things."

Jesus does NOT Answer Question DIRECTLY > Answers Question with Question

He makes THEM ANSWER > “YOU TELL ME!”

Jesus Question NOT to TRICK Them > Wants them to REFLECT and REPENT

v. 30 John's baptism - was it from heaven, or from men? Tell me!"

ONLY TWO Possible CONCLUSIONS > From GOD or MEN?

JOHN was FROM GOD and JESUS HIMSELF is the GOD WHO SENT HIM!

As they all knew, the right answer to his question provided the right answer to their question!
Sinclair Ferguson

v. 32 But if we say, 'From men'" (They feared the people, for everyone held that John really was a prophet.)

Biggest CONCERN of LEADERS NOT “What is TRUE?” > “What is SAFE!?”

Missed OPPORTUNITY to REPENT > HYPOCRITES, MAN-PLEASERS

c) Refusal

v. 33 So they answered Jesus, "We don't know." Jesus said, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things."

Jesus OFFERS OPPORTUNITY for OPPONENTS > Then & Now > INVITES SAD RESULT > Many REFUSED to REPENT and FOLLOW HIM

Jesus EXPOSED their HYPOCRISY by His HONEST SILENCE

Jesus saw no reason to discuss who he was with people who were determined not to believe anything he said.
Victor Babajide Cole

You'll NOT CONFESS JESUS as the Christ until you BOW to His AUTHORITY
As our SAVIOR – LORD – TEACHER >> and PROPHET, PRIEST, & KING

Q23: What offices does Christ fulfill as our Redeemer?

A23: Christ, as our Redeemer, fulfills the offices of a prophet, of a priest, and of a king, both in His humiliation and exaltation.

Q24: How does Christ fulfill the office of a prophet?

A24: Christ fulfills the office of a prophet, in revealing to us, by His word and Spirit, the will of God for our salvation.

Q25: How does Christ fulfill the office of a priest?

A25: Christ fulfills the office of a priest, in His once offering up of Himself a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice, and reconcile us to God, and in making continual intercession for us.

Q26: How does Christ fulfill the office of a king?

A26: Christ fulfills the office of a king, in subduing us to Himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all His and our enemies.

WESTMINSTER SHORTER CATECHISM
Modern Language Revision

2. Response to Jesus

a. Prophet – Hear with Faith

v. 21 Peter remembered and said to Jesus, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered!"

PETER – SPOKESMAN who often SPOKE TOO MUCH – GOT this RIGHT!

He SAW what JEWISH LEADERS were TOO BLIND to UNDERSTAND
Peter probably spoke with Some FEAR > How can WE face your JUDGMENT?
v. 22 "Have faith in God," Jesus answered **CONSTANTLY be TRUSTING God**

FAITH is FOUNDATION of Relationship with God > Faith leads to FRUIT

The point, which Mark draws us to again and again throughout the gospel, is the need for the risky commitment of faith, which most people we meet in the gospel story do not make.

Donald English

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Hebrews 11:6

v. 23 "I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him.

Mountains Moved: Common RABBINIC Phrase – Not LITERAL – Jesus Didn't THIS Mountain > Perhaps POINTING to their Location of Mt. of OLIVES

On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley....

Zechariah 14:4

**ONE Verse does NOT EXHAUST ALL that Jesus has to TEACH about PRAYER
IMPORTANT BALANCING TRUTH is the WILL of GOD**

FAITH is FOLLOWING HIS WILL – NOT Telling God what TO DO

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask *anything according to his will*, he hears us.

1 John 5:14

When prayer is the source of faith's power and the means of its strength, God's sovereignty is its only restriction.

William Lane

Christ STILL SEEKING Fruit from HIS PEOPLE

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit-fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. John 15.16

We MUST be CAREFUL to CULTIVATE our ROOTS Deep into LIFE of GOD

b. Priest – Humble yourself and Forgive

v. 25 And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."

FAITH and FORGIVENESS determine the EFFECTIVENESS of Prayer

We cannot APPROACH God WITHOUT FORGIVENESS

FAITH goes hand in hand with FORGIVENESS > INSEPARABLE, ESSENTIAL
 MARK does NOT Record the LORD'S PRAYER > Here we have KEY Petition
 Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. Matthew 6.12
 IF we do NOT Forgive > We RISK Losing the PRIVILEGE of BEING Forgiven
 If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened Psalm 66.18

c. King – Honor Him and Follow

v. 24 Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

DIFFERENCE between ARROGANCE and AUTHORITY in PRAYER

AUTHORITY in PRAYER is seen in HUMILITY> Not OUR Authority HIS!

Prayer is the highest sign of faith commitment, since the time is most completely wasted if there is nothing in it. Donald English

Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear. Isaiah 65:24

Hear Christ your Prophet! Because we're IGNORANT and need a TEACHER
 Humble yourself before Christ your Priest! We're SINFUL & need SAVIOR
 Honor Christ your King! Because we are LOST and need a RULER

NOW we must LOOK CAREFULLY to SEE Jesus as Prophet, Priest, King
 SOON – EVERY Eye will be SEE Him in GLORY as Prophet, Priest, King

1st Coming: GENTLE Jesus >> Will COME AGAIN as Jesus the JUDGE
 1st Coming SALVATION for all Repent >> SENTENCE those who REFUSE

I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Revelation 19:11-16

Jesus the Prophet – Faithful and True, He is the Word of God

Jesus the Priest – Trodden through the Fury of God's Wrath upon Cross

Jesus the King - KING of KINGS & LORD of LORDS – Kingdom Fully Come

Mark 11:12-33

12 The next day as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry. 13 Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to find out if it had any fruit. When he reached it, he found nothing but leaves, because it was not the season for figs. 14 Then he said to the tree, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard him say it. 15 On reaching Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple area and began driving out those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves, 16 and would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts. 17 And as he taught them, he said, "Is it not written: "'My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations'? But you have made it 'a den of robbers.'" 18 The chief priests and the teachers of the law heard this and began looking for a way to kill him, for they feared him, because the whole crowd was amazed at his teaching. 19 When evening came, they went out of the city. 20 In the morning, as they went along, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots. 21 Peter remembered and said to Jesus, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered!" 22 "Have faith in God," Jesus answered. 23 "I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. 24 Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. 25 And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins." 27 They arrived again in Jerusalem, and while Jesus was walking in the temple courts, the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders came to him. 28 "By what authority are you doing these things?" they asked. "And

who gave you authority to do this?" 29 Jesus replied, "I will ask you one question. Answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. 30 John's baptism-was it from heaven, or from men? Tell me!" 31 They discussed it among themselves and said, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will ask, 'Then why didn't you believe him?' 32 But if we say, 'From men' . . ." (They feared the people, for everyone held that John really was a prophet.) 33 So they answered Jesus, "We don't know." Jesus said, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things."