

Real Refreshment – The Podcast: Mark Study

Mark 11:1-26: Rejection of the Servant

Begin by praying that God's Spirit will bless your time in His word, that He will teach you His truth, that He will meet you right where you are today as you seek Him. Next, read through the whole passage slowly. Try to step into the passage remembering that Mark is recounting real events as Peter told him.

Passage breakdown:

Mark 11:1-14

Where did Jesus approach?

Who did He send on ahead?

What errand did He assign them?

What obstacle did He prophesy?

What response did He instruct them to give?

Describe what happened when those Jesus sent went as He directed.

What did they bring back to Jesus?

What did they put on it?

What did he do?

What did others place on the road?

What did people wave?

What did the people say?

Which city did Jesus enter with this procession?

What did He do?

Then where did He go?

Who did He take with Him?

The next day, upon leaving that town, how was Jesus feeling?

What kind of tree did He come up on?

Did He find any fruit upon it?

Mark 11:15-26

Where did Jesus return?

Where again did He go in the city?

What did He do there?

What did He say about His house?

How had they made it a "den of robbers?"

Who heard about Jesus' actions?

How did they respond?

Why?

Who was astonished at Jesus' teaching?

What did Jesus and His disciples do in the evening?

What did they see again on their return to Bethany?

What was its condition?

Who spoke up?
What did he point out?
What instruction did Jesus give in response?
What did He teach is the enemy of faith?
Where do these two attitudes do battle?
What does Jesus teach about prayer?
What assurance does He extend?
What should you do toward others when you're praying?
Why?
What warning does Jesus give?

Here are the "immediately" verses in this week's passage. Note what action takes place immediately:

11:2
11:3

Take some time to read back over the passage and your notes. Are there parts of this passage that stand out to you? Pray that God will continue to teach you as you meditate on His word, the story of His Son, Jesus.

Consider this:

What aspects of this passage illustrate Jesus as the Son of God?
Why is it important to know that Jesus is the God-man, not just a man?
The house of God was intended to be a place where people could come and pray. The context was supposed to be peaceful so that those who came could focus on God. How would the buying and selling of goods interfere? Are there things which we allow in our churches today which distract from our focus on Him? Our prayers to Him?
This passage says that the religious leaders wanted to destroy Jesus because they were afraid of Him. Based on what we've already studied and seen in Mark's gospel, of what might they have been afraid?

For further study: Note Mark 11:23-24. This passage has been wrongly taught to mean that we can ask God for whatever we want, and if we believe strongly enough that He will give it to us. In other words, based solely on our wanting, it will be granted to us. This false teaching has gone so far as to insist that we get to fill in the blank with whatever we want instead of leaving our lives blank for God to fill in. God isn't ours to boss around. He isn't our cosmic bellboy. He is ours to worship.

The whole process of our being molded into the image of His Son, the transformation of our souls ought to result in our willingness to get more and more in line with His will. His will is the standard. The cross beam of Calvary is the symbol. Death to ourselves is the objective. Any teaching that elevates and validates our individual selfish ambitions and desires above His sovereign will is heresy. He's not beholden to our whims, though He is interested in our heart's cry, the rawness of our hurts and longings. Above all of that is the glory of God. And that is what we're offered through praying to God: a purification of our desires.

In Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:2-4, Jesus taught His disciples a model prayer. The teaching He gives His disciples here is based on the teaching and example He'd already given them. The paramount request as stated in the Lord's Prayer is for the will of the Father to be accomplished. In short, this example for prayer challenges us to elevate our desires to be in line with the will of the Father — His good, pleasing, and perfect will. God doesn't owe us. Our sin debt is already paid by His Son Jesus. We have no greater need! Now with our sins forgiven, mercy received, and the hope of heaven, grace is abundant. Now He invites us to ask anything according to His will and it will be granted to us by faith. But we must remember, these requests, offered in faith, focused on His will, are still in need of our humble submission and surrender to His purification. Often such prayers, though beautiful in His sight, are not instantly answered or answered as we think best. Sometimes our well-intentioned prayers are purified over time through the persistence and perseverance of prayer. God is forming our souls and He teaches us to trust and obey as we pray and then wait for His best in our lives.