

### WHOSE PERSPECTIVE?

Can you think of a time when your opinion about something was altered (perhaps 180 degrees) when you saw something from a different perspective? (For example, someone that I first thought was mild-easy going turned out to be an adrenaline junkie.)

### TWO VERY POWERFUL CHAPTERS

This week's passage will cover two chapters of people who see Jesus from multiple perspectives and none see the full truth. As we have learned from walking through the book of Mark, three key questions have risen to the surface: (1) Who is Jesus? (identity), (2) Why did He come? (mission), (3) What does this mean for us? (response).

In these weeks passage, there are eleven snapshots of Jesus' life and multiple groups of people who had varied perspectives of who Jesus is. The author has carefully chosen and recorded these for us to understand the answer to the above three questions. Let's dig in.

Read chapters 11-12.

Summarize each of the eleven stories in a sentence. Then, summarize what we learn about Jesus in each story and what perspectives you see. For example, many have described Jesus riding into Jerusalem as a triumphant story. But what was Jesus thinking or feeling? How does each of these stories give us a piece of an answer to the three questions above?

11:1-11

The story:

About Jesus:

Perspectives: Jesus? The twelve? The crowd? The religious leaders?

11:12-14

11:27-33

11:15-19

12:1-12

11:20-26

12:13-17

12:18-27

12:35-40

12:28-34

12:41-44

Little of these stories are about the twelve disciples and much is about how the Jerusalem leaders were responding to Jesus. Consider the following questions about Jesus (and Mark's) purposes:

- Five incidents or stories are responses to the challenges (or questions) of the Jerusalem religious leaders:
  - The vineyard
  - Taxes to Caesar
  - Marriage and the resurrection
  - The greatest commandment
  - Whose son in the Christ

What is the primary question behind these questions?

- What are the implications of the cursing of the fig tree and the cleansing of the temple (i.e. clearing out the marketplace from the area which was intended for gentiles to pray)? What does this imply about Jerusalem?

### **DISCUSS TOGETHER**

- What was Jesus' perspective upon entering Jerusalem? How does Mark present the story of Jesus entering Jerusalem? Is this how we, the church, view this occasion?
- Which of the people in these stories are responding well to Jesus / God?
- How is the final story (the widow's offering) an illustration of how God would have us respond to the good news of Jesus?
- How are faith and prayer connected?

### **THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION**

How are you responding to what you have learned in these chapters?  
What have you learned about Jesus? What does this mean to you?