

SERIES TITLE: SERVANT KING

PART THIRTEEN: PRODUCING

TEXT: MARK 11:1-26

INTRODUCTION TO STUDY

The gospel of Mark portrays Jesus as a Servant on the move. Using the word “immediately” over 40 times, he shows Jesus ministering. Obedient to the Father’s will, Jesus preaches the good news, heals the sick, teaches his followers, and performs miracles. All the while, he heads toward his sacrificial death on the cross. Mark 10:45 sums up his mission: “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.” Mark’s gospel reveals Jesus to be the perfect Servant and the perfect Sacrifice. Those who receive him as the good news are empowered to serve in his name.

CONTEXT OF SCRIPTURE

Like the other gospel writers, Mark begins the events of Holy Week with Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem, riding on a donkey. He connects the cleansing of the Temple with the withered fig tree to teach the Twelve about the fruitful life of true disciples fueled by faith and prayer.

FOCUS QUESTION

Think of something that looks deceptively good from a distance, but up close is not good or at least disappointing. What made it disappointing?

EXAMINATION

11:1-11

How does this fulfill the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9?

Based on what the people shouted, what were they expecting from Jesus?

What do you think Jesus was looking for?

11:12-14

Was Jesus being unreasonable? Why or why not?

11:15-19

This is the only time Jesus took aggressive action (John’s gospel says he used a whip). Why did Jesus react this way?

11:20-25

Mark brackets the temple incident with what happened to the fig tree. Why?

How and why are faith and forgiveness tied together?

EXPLORATION

- Jeremiah 17:5-8
- Matthew 5:3-12
- Luke 19:41-44
- John 15:1-8
- Colossians 3:12-15

APPLICATION.

- Some of the same people who shouted “hosanna” yelled “crucify him” a week later. What does that tell us about how praise and celebration of Jesus can go wrong?
- What would a “fruitless” Christian look like, and how can you avoid being one?
- Share any examples of “impossible prayers” in your life?
- What hesitations do you have about praying impossible prayers in faith believing?
- Consider 1 John 5:14-15. How does this fit in with Jesus’ teaching?

SUMMATION

- Fact: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?
- React: What did you feel?
- Act: What are you going to do?