BRIARCLIFF CHURCH

Small Group Study Guide: Mark

Week of March 3 (Week 24)

Mark 11:1-26



Sermon Overview

Chapter 11 essentially begins the last chapter of Jesus' life. We notice that in 10:46-52 he allows people (like blind Bartimaeus) to call him the Messiah openly. This can mean only one thing — nothing else needs to happen before he is crucified! He knows that an open declaration of his identity will lead to execution, so the countdown begins. Chapters 11 through 15 compress several weeks of teaching and activity in one symbolic week of Jesus' life, consuming nearly a third of Mark's gospel. The disproportionate length shows that the gospels are not a biography. These chapters are the climax and fulfillment of Jesus' ministry, not simply the end of it.

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Getting Started

1. What are elements of the Christian life that you are tempted to follow with more dedication than the actual person of Jesus?

Starting with God

2. Read Mark 11:1-6. A full six verses are devoted to finding a colt for Jesus to ride. Now, read Zechariah 9:9. What does it teach us that Jesus has this so well planned out? What are some practical and personal applications for us?

3.	Read verses 8-10. What do we learn from the responses and cries from the crowd? What are they expecting from Jesus?
4.	Read verses 12-14 and 20-25. These verses surround the story of Jesus' disruption of the massive-scale temple commerce in preparation for sacrifices (sometimes called Jesus' cleansing of the temple). How is the story of the fig tree a "living parable" and what does it mean for how we should live?
5.	Read verses 15-19. Why does Jesus disrupt or "cleanse" the temple? What does this teach us about Jesus, ourselves and the gospel?

6. What is Jesus promising in verses 22-24 and requiring in verse 25? How does that follow from his judgment on the tree and the temple?
Living God's Word
7. Reflect on question one from this weeks study guide (above) and your answer(s). State what you've learned about the person and work of Jesus and what he desires for his followers in the area of worship, fruitfulness and prayer?
Prayer
Father God, Thank you for your perfect plan of redemption. Please give me the eyes to see

Thank you for your perfect plan of redemption. Please give me the eyes to see and ears to hear you as the ultimate desire in life. Please show me the traditions and distractions in my life and worship that have become idols and keep me from the joy of worshiping you and pointing others to you.

Amen.