

GROWTH GROUP

Study Guide

Mark 11:1-25 – Faulty Expectations?

My Story

1. Describe a time when you found yourself to have some “faulty expectations.” What happened?

Digging Deeper

2. Read Mark 11:1-11. What was unexpected about the way Jesus entered Jerusalem? What kind of Messiah did the crowd expect Jesus to be? How do you think Jesus felt in light of the crowd’s faulty expectations?
3. Read Mark 11:12-21. How does the condition of the fig tree parallel the spiritual state of Israel, particularly the temple system? How does Jesus’ cleansing of the temple help us understand His priorities for worship and prayer?

4. Read Mark 11:22-25. What conditions for effective prayer are listed here? Does this mean that we can ask God for anything and He will give it to us? What does 1 John 5:14-15 contribute to your answer?

Reflection

5. What does it mean to have the indications of fruit (leaves), but to have no real fruit? What could you do about a situation like this in your own life?
6. Like the temple, no church is perfect. What have you done, or what could you do, to help make your church a better place?

SERMON NOTES

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Taking the Next Step

Write out a short list of expectations for how you think your life should go, then bring it before the Lord in prayer. Ask Him to help you trust His will for you in all of these areas, even if that means it turns out different than you hoped. Seek His Strength.

Praises / Prayer Requests

