

DISCUSSION IDEAS

FRUITLESS FIG TREE, FRUITLESS TEMPLE

Mark 11:11-26

February 28th, 2016

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THE SETTING:

Jesus and his disciples were staying in Bethany. Remember Jesus' friends who lived there? Simon the Leper, Martha, Mary and Lazarus.

Jesus is preparing the next steps in making absolutely clear Who He was, and also to set up His execution.

♦ DISCUSSION POINT ONE: JESUS HAD A SPECIFIC PLAN.

What was Step 1 in Mark 11:11?

Then on the way to perform Step 2, what does Jesus do in verses 12-14?

Take a quick sneak peek ahead at Mark 13:1-2.

How was this prophecy (in v 12-13) clear evidence of His Power and Authority?

Think about it, Jesus was always teaching. This was the set-up; vv. 20-26 are the second part of the lesson.

Discuss how He cared about those He was going to leave behind and how He prepared them.

Step 2 is in Mark 11:15-19. The message text from Sunday has a great expansion on what was going on there.

Discuss making God's house "*a safe hiding place where people think that they find forgiveness and fellowship with God no matter how they act on the outside.*"

Do we ever live that type of duality in our own lives?

What would that look like?

♦ DISCUSSION POINT TWO: FAITH (TRUST) AND FORGIVENESS.

In Mark 11:20–26 the withered tree gets their attention!

What are the points that Jesus makes?

When we "have faith", what or Who are we trusting?

Have we ever trusted going to a church to pray because we think that God will more certainly hear us there?

How does forgiveness fit into prayer?

♦ FURTHER STUDY: SPEND TIME ABSORBING WHAT IS SAID IN THE FOLLOWING PASSAGES.

1 Corinthians 3:16–17

2 Corinthians 6:16

1 Peter 2:4–5

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♦ **PRAYER:**

Pray for our individual relationships and our witness to those in our lives.

In what ways will my life influence them?

How significant are my prayers for them?

Let's continue to pray for the Lord's love and power to be continually shown in Barangonan Island, as well as at Shelter Valley.

Pray for Eddie, as he grows in Christ and takes on greater responsibilities on Barangonan Island.