

1:10 JOURNEY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Sunday, January 31, 2010 • Summit Evangelical Free Church, Alta, IA • Pastor Doug Corlew
Series: *WAY TO GO: Serving & Giving Like Jesus* (Gospel of Mark), Message #15

Openers:

- 1 - What is the closest you have come to meeting a world leader or celebrity?
- When you see something wrong, are you more likely to act without thinking or think without acting?
- How did Jesus enter your life—as a gentle Lamb or a roaring Lion?

Getting Started:

- 2 What insight, principle, or observation from Sunday's message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.
- 3 How has God been speaking to you this past week through your personal devotions in His Word?

Digging Deeper:

4 Read Mark 11:1-11.

- What qualities of Jesus do you observe in this passage?
- What was unexpected about the way Jesus entered Jerusalem?
- In light of the crowds' response, what were their expectations?
The disciples' (10:37)? Jesus'?
- What was Jesus telling the crowd by entering the city in this way (Zech 9:9-10)?

5 Read Mark 11:12-25.

- What qualities of Jesus do you observe in this passage?
- How does the story of the fig tree relate to the cleansing of the temple?
- What kind of fruit was Jesus looking for in Israel? In our lives (see Gal 5:22-23)?
- In what ways can people cover their fruitlessness with flashy foliage?
- The profit-making from selling sacrificial animals took place in the only area where Gentiles could worship. Why would this especially anger Jesus (see Isa 56:6-8)?
- What was Jesus threatening by calling the temple a "den of robbers" (Jer 7:9-15)?
- How would you distinguish between "righteous anger" and sinful anger?
- Have you ever expressed righteous anger similar to Jesus'? What happened?
- In what ways do you need to develop this kind of toughness in your life?
- What conditions does Jesus emphasize for answered prayer (v 23-25)?
- What amazing answer to prayer can you remember receiving?

THE LAMB IS A LION!

Mark 11:1-25

Do you have a balanced view of the Lord Jesus Christ?

1. _____ (v 1-11)

2. _____ (v 12-25)

Monday, February 1

Read Mark 11:1-11

While Jesus generally withdrew from public notice, He deliberately made a public entrance into the city of Jerusalem, at a time when crowds had gathered to observe the Jewish Passover. What does this reveal about the importance of His life's final act?

John 12:44-50

Hebrews 10:5-10

Revelation 1:6-7

"He came to Jerusalem to die, and he desired that all Jerusalem should know it... The eternal Son of God was about to suffer in the place of sinful mankind. The great sacrifice for sin was about to be offered up. The great Passover Lamb was about to be slain. The great atonement for a world's sin was about to be made. He therefore ordered it so that His death was eminently a public death. He overruled things in such a way that the eyes of all Jerusalem were fixed on Him, and when He died, He died in front of many witnesses." - J.C. Ryle*

Tuesday, February 2

Read Mark 11:12-14

Jesus expected to see fruit on a tree that had leaves. Likewise, He expects to see fruit in the lives of those who are blessed with favorable spiritual opportunities. The cursing of the fig tree serves as a sober warning against an empty profession of Christianity!

Isaiah 5:1-7

John 15:1-6

Hebrews 6:1-12

"Let us always remember that baptism, church membership, receiving the Lord's Supper and a diligent use of the outward forms of Christianity are not sufficient to save our souls. They are leaves, nothing but leaves, and without fruit will not hide the nakedness of our souls from the eye of an all-seeing God, or give us boldness when we stand before Him on the last day. No! We must bear fruit, or be lost forever.... The fruit of repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ, and true holiness in our behavior. Without such fruits as these a profession of Christianity will only sink us lower into hell."—J.C. Ryle*

Wednesday, February 3

Read Mark 11:15-19

Jesus' strong actions in the temple demonstrate His concern for purity in worship—a holy reverence appropriate for those who would approach the living God. While a NT Christian church is not sacred in the same way as an OT Jewish temple, our worship facility is indeed "a house of prayer" and our worship is under His scrutiny.

Leviticus 10:1-3

Psalm 89:5-8

Hebrews 12:18-29

"The Lord Jesus takes notice of people's behavior in places of worship, and all irreverence or profanity is an offense in His sight. Let us remember these verses whenever we go to the house of God, and take care that we go in a serious frame, and do not offer the sacrifice of idols. Let us recall where we are, what we are doing, what business we are about, and in whose presence we are engaged. Let us beware of giving God a mere formal service, while our hearts are full of the world."—J.C. Ryle*

Thursday, February 4

Read Mark 11:20-24

Jesus emphasizes that faith is of supreme importance—enabling us to accomplish great works for God and to overcome huge difficulties, as long as we are proceeding according to His will. Are you living with confidence in the promises of God?

Psalm 25:1-5; 112:6-8

Isaiah 35:3-4

James 1:5-7

1 John 5:14-15

"Let us pray daily for more faith, and watch our faith with most jealous watchfulness... According to our faith will be the degree of our peace, our hope, our joy, our decision in Christ's service, our boldness in confession, our strength in work, our patience in trial, our resignation in trouble, our tangible comfort in prayer. All, all hinge on the proportion of our faith. Happy are those who know how to rest their whole weight continually on a covenant God, and to walk by faith, not by sight." - J.C. Ryle*

Friday, February 5

Read Mark 11:25(-26)

Our prayers must not only be fervent and sincere, but they must also come from a forgiving heart! Jesus teaches the absolute necessity of a forgiving spirit toward others as evidence that we have truly been the recipients of divine grace.

Matthew 6:9-15; 18:23-35

Ephesians 4:31-32

Colossians 3:12-15

"Do we know what it is to be of a forgiving spirit? Can we overlook the injuries that we receive from time to time in this evil world? If not, where is our Christianity? If not, why should we wonder that our souls do not prosper?... Let us determine by God's grace to forgive, even as we hope to be forgiven... God's free forgiveness of sins is our highest privilege in this world. God's free forgiveness will be our only title to eternal life in the world to come. Then let us be forgiving during the few years that we are here upon earth." - J.C. Ryle*

Saturday, February 7

Read Mark 11:27—12:12

As you prepare for tomorrow's message, read through this passage and identify both new and recurring spiritual principles. What might be an overall theme to tie these verses together?