

Sunday, March 14, 2021 - "Remarkable - Week 9: The Temple and A Fig Tree" - Doug Kempton

Key Passages: Mark 11:12-25, Isaiah 56:1-12, Jeremiah 7:1-11

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- The clearing of the temple was about God's expectations for his people and religious leaders
- The temple was to be a **House of prayer for all people**
 - Most who would have heard this would have had it memorized (Isaiah 56:1-12)
 - God's vision for the temple was that it would be a place where outcasts, foreigners, and gentiles could come to serve Him and minister to Him
 - God's chosen people were called to be priests to all nations, showing them the living God
 - But Jesus called out the leaders...they filled the space for gentiles at the temple with stuff
- Jeremiah 7:1-11
 - Has my house become a den of robbers?
 - God is a God of justice, integrity, holiness
 - The people of Israel did not repent
 - Repent is to turn in a different direction
 - Jesus knew the system was broken
- The Fig Tree is a teaching metaphor
 - Jesus isn't cleansing the temple he is condemning it
 - The sacrificial system is finished
 - When he talked about no stone left standing he meant he was remaking the temple
- **"When our religion does not align with God's vision, He will clean house."** - Doug Kempton
- What is Fruitfulness?
 - It's about JUSTICE
 - Protecting the most vulnerable
 - Moved to action against unjust systems and for people that are oppressed
 - It's about EXPANDING THE KINGDOM
 - Seeing people come to faith
 - Taking ground from the enemy
 - It's about INTEGRITY
 - Seeds of rebellion are always born in hypocrisy
 - What we say matches what we do
- How are we to be fruitful?
 - We know what's required of us and it's not about trying harder
 - It's about LOVE
 - Love God → Love people
 - We become more gracious and merciful
 - The presence of God in everything we do
 - Listen to and learn from people who love Jesus
 - It's about ABIDING
 - We have a tendency to wander
 - Minute by minute, 24/7 requirement
 - Apart from God we can do NOTHING

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. How is God calling you to repent in this season? To turn and go His direction?
2. How is God calling you to participate in His justice?
3. How is God asking you to be a part of expanding his kingdom?
4. How are you doing at living a life of integrity where what you say matches what you do?
5. How are you being asked to grow in abiding with God? What step will you take to be with Him?
6. What is God inviting you into as a result of this passage or sermon?

****15 Minutes with God Reading Plan-**

Mon: Numbers 21:4-9 Tues: Psalm 107:3, 17-22 Wed: Ephesians 2:1-10 Thurs: John 3:14-21 Fri: Luke 1:26-38

Songs from the weekend: [Great Jehovah - *Travis Greene*] - [Living Hope - *Phil Wickham*] - [Build My Live - *Housefires*] - [Promises - *Maverick City Music*]