

Cleaning House

Sunday, March 5, 2017

Mark 11:15-19

Lent Focus this Year

Mark 11-12

Movement and Focus – Whole book → 1 Week → 3 Days

Final Week – Travelled each day into Jerusalem

Today – Cleansing the Temple (Mark 11:15-19)

What's Going On?

Picturing this Story

Captures imaginations! An Outburst of Anger?

Often used to justify our outbursts ...

A Symbolic Action

Announcing rejection of religious leaders

Clarifying what God actually wants

Reflections

Religious Presumption

Current Leaders Entitled; Assumed their role

Jesus announced rejection from their role

Useful Religion

Using and profiting from the people

Protecting their privileged role

The Real Thing

Call to prayer – About real, living connection to God

Finding Gods Agenda vs Using God to further our Agenda

Sin and Repentance

Broaden and Deepen our idea of sin

Sin as failure to do assigned role

Repentance as Acknowledging Need

Cleaning House

What does Cleaning House look like?

Ideas for Lent

Read Mark 11-12

Sometime over Lent read Mark 11-12 in one sitting

A Prayer for the First Sunday of Lent

Almighty God,

whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan;

Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations;

and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us,

let each one find you mighty to save;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. Amen

A Prayer of Confession

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you

in thought, word, and deed,

by what we have done,

and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,

have mercy on us and forgive us;

that we may delight in your will,

and walk in your ways,

to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on us,

forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,

strengthen us in all goodness,

and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.

Small Group Guide

Kicking off your Time Together

Ice Breaker

How often do you like to do a major house cleaning?

Opening Prayer

Have one or two open in prayer asking God to be present and to direct your time.

What Did you Bring?

Did you bring anything to share to encourage the group?
(consider 1 Cor 14:26 as the pattern for this part of the meeting)

Read Passage

Read this passage: Mark 11:15-19

Discuss a few of these questions:

How do you picture this event?

There was a great deal of conflict between Jesus and the religious officials of the day (but not the people in general). Why? What was the conflict about? Why did they want to kill him?

What was Jesus opposed to in this story? What did he want instead?

How does this story connect with us, today?

Pray for Each Other

In light of all that has been shared, pray for each other.

You may want to share specific requests.