

March 19/20, 2005

Study Questions
The Good News About Jesus According to Mark
Lessons From A Fig Tree
Mark 11:1-26
Pastor Bryan Clark

Opening Discussion

1. Is busyness an indication of progress? Why or why not?
2. Respond to the following: “Beware of the barrenness of a busy life.”

Is this a legitimate concern? Why or why not?
3. Is religious activity an indication of spiritual growth or of being a Christ-follower? Why or why not?

Bible Study

1. What were the main lessons of Mark 10? List them.
2. Read Mark 11:1-26.
3. Why did Jesus ride into Jerusalem on an unbroken colt? What statement was He making?

What were the people celebrating? What did the people think Jesus was about to do?
4. The cleansing of the temple is sandwiched between the story of the fig tree. This is a technique of Mark’s to make sure we interpret the two events together. In what way might the fruitless fig tree be a picture of what was happening at the temple?

In what way does the fig tree picture religious activity today?
5. Why did Jesus curse the tree? Was there a deeper meaning that He wanted to communicate to His disciples? How is this related to what He was about to do on the cross?
6. What is the alternative to the fruitless tree and the empty religious activity according to Mark 11:22-26?
7. Review Mark 10:17-11:26. What does it really mean to be a Christ-follower?

What is the difference between sincere religious activity and truly following Christ and receiving Him as Savior and King?

Application

1. What is one key thing from Mark 10-11 that you must keep in mind to truly be a Christ-follower?
2. What are three practical things you can do to avoid slipping into meaningless religious activity?
3. List some of the “fruit” that should be evident in the lives of those who are truly following Jesus.