



Deeply Rooted

Community Study Guide: **Mark 11:12-23** –Week of March 17th, 2024

1. Deeply Rooted in Rebellion

We see at the beginning of our passage that Jesus, on His way to Jerusalem, interacts with a fig tree. He was hungry, and saw a tree with bloomed leaves, showing that it was to be bearing fruit. However, after Jesus drew near to the tree, He saw that there was no fruit. Upon seeing this, Jesus curses the tree, and it immediately wilts. This story of the tree is an analogy, showing us the condition of Jerusalem. The city seemed holy. It seemed to be in the right condition. However, on further inspection, all the external claims fell short. At a fundamental level, the city was full of hypocrisy. The very thing it claimed to be, was what it was not. It was empty, barren, and lacking what was required of it. Still, the city flaunted its leaves; it proclaimed its worth. Ultimately, just like the fig tree, the city was rooted in rebellion. It was in opposition to the very thing it was created for. All of us are guilty of this same thing. We have all been rooted in rebellion. Unlike the tree, we have been given the opportunity to be replanted.

2. Now Deeply Rooted in Faith

After engaging with the tree, Jesus heads to the temple. There, He removed those who exchanged money and sold pigeons. Why? Because the operators of these businesses had used their positions for corruption. Instead of facilitating worship and prayer, they had imposed themselves so that they might steal from those who had come. They turned it into a den of robbers. Jesus rightfully drives those doing the sinful act of His temple and reminds them that it was to be a house of prayer for all nations. Like our own lives, Jesus has come to remove sin from us. Through the saving sacrifice of Himself and the power of the Holy Spirit, He has removed the sinful roots of our old selves. He has now placed us in new soil, rooted in

DISCUSSION GOALS

Head

We are called to be uprooted from our old self, and rooted into Christ. We are to continually give to Christ all we are, and not to hold unto any of our old lives but to grow into all the Lord has provide for us.

Heart

Our hearts and mind are being continually renewed, as we grow into the likeness of Christ. We should desire the discipline of the Lord, and listen to the counsel of His word. Our hearts should desire to be more and more like Him.

Hands

Ask the Lord for His aid. Ask Him to search your heart, and reveal any grievous way within you. Mediate on His word, allowing the Sword of the Spirit to pierce you. Welcome the rebuke of righteousness. Seek God that He might be glorified in all that you do.

faith.

3. To Walk in Authority

Now that we have been rooted in Christ, and no longer in our sinful selves, our entire perspective changes. We once lived as slaves to sin, but now our King has removed any hold of the old master over us. We are now called to walk in authority over sin. This authority, this power is not ours, but His. We now can deny sin, to tell it that it has no place in us. Furthermore, we see in the text that Jesus promises that this power of faith and repentance can move more than individuals. This power found in faith in Christ can conquer all of sin and death. It can overcome our circumstances. It can overcome our cities, our states, and our nations. Christ has overcome the world. Now for us, we should boldly believe and walk in this power; walk in His authority.

Read Mark 11:12-33

1. Verse 12-14 describe Jesus' interaction with a fig tree. What is the meaning of this interaction? What does the tree represent? Why was Jesus so harsh on the fig tree?
2. Where in your own life have you been like the fig tree? How has the Lord uprooted you from that condition? What have you learned about God through that process?
3. Why is Jesus so severe in His dealing with the money changers and pigeon sellers? What had they done? What should the temple have been?
4. What lessons can we learn from the money changers and pigeon sellers, and how Jesus interacted with them?
5. **Read Luke 13:6-9** How is this parable applicable to the passage in Mark?
6. What is Jesus saying in verses 23 and 24? How has your understanding of this passage changed?
7. How did the religious leaders challenge Jesus? What did it ultimately show about their heart behind the question? What should have been the right response to Jesus' counterquestion?
8. How do we act like the religious leaders? Why is having a correct heart position toward King Jesus essential for encounter with Him?