

The Road to Easter
What God Desires Most

Today: Mark 11:1-26

To have His rightful place in our life

Mark 11:1-11

- **His Lordship is for our sake**

Connection with his people

Mark 11:12-19

- **Religion can never solve our intimacy need**
- **Religion is always works oriented**
- **The house God desires**

His people would live in faith and love

Mark 11:20-26

- **Steps toward the cross**

1. What stood out to you from John's message on Sunday?

2. Jesus comes riding into Jerusalem on a donkey (See Zechariah 9:9). The people expected him to be a violent militant revolutionary. How was Jesus revolutionary in a different way? In what ways are we given the choice to engage with the world in the same revolutionary way as Jesus? In what ways might we be distracted or tempted by the pursuit of power, even when we think it might be justified?

3. Think for a moment about what motivates human beings to want to be royalty. What might we gain from being king or queen? How would that benefit us; would we have the character to use that power to benefit others? Jesus was the rightful king of Israel. He is also the rightful king of the universe and the king over our lives. However, Jesus is not seeking his own gain by being our king. What is his motivation? What is our response?

4. Read Luke 19:41-48. Imagine that you are a worshiper at the temple who is barred from entering because you cannot afford a sacrifice. Imagine how you might respond, internally or externally, if you were a witness to Jesus calling out the money changers in defense of Passover observers like yourself ("my house will be a place of prayer for all the nations..."). In this story we see Jesus compassionately breaking down barriers that kept people from being able to afford a temple sacrifice. How does Jesus' compassion add context to him flipping tables in the temple? How does Jesus weeping over the city teach us about what is required to love justice (Micah 6:8)?

5. What does it mean for our faith, prayer, or acts of forgiveness to be Christ centered or Gospel centered? How does it change our actions when they are centered in Christ?

Seaside Finances			
Weekly Goal	\$22,195	Monthly Goal	\$95,500
Received Last Week	\$10,937	Received in Feb.	\$70,117

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