

Hypocrisy

The gorilla at the zoo...

A major problem today

According to a 2013 Barna study of 718 people, only 1 in 7 Christians actually act in Christ-like ways and hold Christ-like beliefs.

85% of people who reject Christianity include hypocrisy as one of the reasons they don't believe.

Explaining the Passage

Vss. 12-14 – The Fig Tree part 1

Is Jesus being unreasonable?

Archaeologist James Kelso speaks...

Vss. 15-19 – The Cleansing of the Temple

Money changers and animal sellers - Caiaphas' budding business empire

The Garden Temple → Abraham, blessing for the nations → Israel's temple → Gentile worship

Vss. 20-21 – The Fig Tree part 2

Dried from the root

Israel is the fig tree

Micah 7:1 “Woe is me! For I have become as when the summer fruit has been gathered, as when the grapes have been gleaned: there is no cluster to eat, no first-ripe fig that my soul desires.”

Micah 7:2-3 “The godly has perished from the earth... the prince and judge ask for a bribe.”

What True Faith Looks Like

Vss. 22-25 – Have Faith in God

The answer to hypocrisy – true faith

About prayer

We must believe he can grant any prayer – Mark 11:22

We must ask with godly motives – James 4:3

We must ask according to God’s will – 1 John 5:13

We must have confidence in God’s power but also submission to his will – Mark 14:36 Then we know he will supply every need according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus – Phil. 4:19

Forgiving you brother

Application

God will not be mocked

Where is your faith really at?

Jesus is the true temple

Questions for Personal Study

1. How has Christian (or religious) hypocrisy affected you?
2. How do you make sure that your relationship with God is authentic and real?
3. How does true faith in God serve as a barrier to hypocrisy?
4. What would it mean for you to forgive those who have hurt you?