

Mark 11

I. First Coming: The King Arrives in Peace

- **Bartimaeus:** Followed Jesus who was on his way to die

Isaiah 50:6 I gave My back to those who struck Me ,And My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting. ⁷“For the Lord God will help Me; Therefore I will not be disgraced; Therefore I have set My face like a flint, And I know that I will not be ashamed.⁸ *He is near who justifies Me; Who will contend with Me? Let us stand together. Who is My adversary? Let him come near Me. Let him come near Me.*

- **Sinless life:** Death will not hold Him; take on the devil and WIN!

John 14:29 “And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe. ³⁰ I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me.

1 Now when they drew near Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, He sent two of His disciples; ² and He said to them, “Go into the village opposite you; and as soon as you have entered it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has sat. Loose it and bring *it*. ³ And if anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord has need of it,’ and immediately he will send it here.”

- **Coming near to Jerusalem:** Jesus had been there many times for feasts
- **Bethany:** Mary, Martha and Lazarus
- Jesus sends 2 Disciples with instructions:
 1. Go to the village opposite us
 2. As soon as you get there you’ll see a colt that was never ridden
 3. Untie it and bring it
 4. If someone says ‘What are you doing’ say “ It’s for the Lord”
 5. He will understand!

4 So they went their way, and found the colt tied by the door outside on the street, and they loosed it. 5 But some of those who stood there said to them, “What are you doing, loosing the colt?” 6 And they spoke to them just as Jesus had commanded. So they let them go.

- Jesus prophesied that the colt will be ready
- Zechariah prophesied 500 years earlier

Zechariah 9:9 “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.

- **Colt:** King who comes in peace

7 Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their clothes on it, and He sat on it. 8 And many spread their clothes on the road, and others cut down leafy branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

- Threw clothes on colt! Spread their clothes on the road!
- Spread branches covered w/ leaves on the road

9 Then those who went before and those who followed cried out, saying:

"Hosanna! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!'

10 Blessed is the kingdom of our father David That comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"

- **Jesus allow recognition:** Religious leaders protest:

Luke 19:40 [He] e answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.

- Courage of Jesus not to hide
- Passover was coming: Crosses with prisoners hanging along the road
- Religious leaders wanted Him on one of them:

John 11:57 ...both the chief priests and the Pharisees had given a command, that if anyone knew where He was, he should report it, that they might seize Him.

- Common people were excited about their new king
- **Crying out before Him:**
 1. Hosanna blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord
 2. Blessed is the Kingdom of our father David that comes in name of the Lord
 3. Hosanna in the highest!

This is the day that the Lord has made!

Psalms 118:24 This is the day the Lord has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it.....26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

- **The day that the Lord has made:** Triumphal Entry?
- Prophesied by Daniel to the day 500 years earlier!
- Excitement as when David was anointed King. **The Kingdom will be Glorious**
- The same people would turn Him over to the Jews, they to Gentiles to be crucified

John 18:36 "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; **but now My kingdom is not from here.**"

- Jesus would suffer, die but later He would resurrect; Sit at the Right hand Father
- Prepare a place for us in His Kingdom; another dimension the true reality

John 14:3 ... if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to

Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

- He will meet His bride in the air and marriage feast for 7 years
- Tribulation on earth as people of earth are Judged
- Some will be saved during tribulation and will finally and forever give Jesus the worship He rightly deserves at the **True Triumphal Entry**
- **...the 2nd Coming of Jesus Christ**

Revelation 7:9 [Stand and Read] After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, **with palm branches in their hands**, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" 11 All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, 12 saying:

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen."

13 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?" 14 And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 15 Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them. 16 They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; 17 for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. **And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."**

AMEN?

Lessons from the "The Fig Tree"

Jesus People

God's Purpose in Creating Man: To Glorify God; Delight God as He delights in us. For God and man to enjoy an intimate relationship with each other. For us to draw all men near to Him by **living a life of Faith**

Puritan Catechism

Q. What is the chief end of man?

A. Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him for ever

1 Corinthians 10:31 [Glorify God] ... whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

Psalms 73:25 [Enjoy Him forever] God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

God Calls a People to Himself; Nation of Israel: The Fig Tree [Jeremiah 24]

Creation 6000 BC , Adam/Eve, Temptation, Fall, Noah 3000BC, Flood, Noah's 3 Son Ham, Japheth and Shem 2500 BC:

Genesis 10:21 One of Shem's descendants was Eber. [Father of Hebrew People]

- Tower of Babel: Dispersed
- **God calls one man...Abram 1900BC**

Acts 15:14 [Peter] has declared how God...first visited the Gentiles to take out of them a people for His name.

Genesis 12:1 "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you.² I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing.³ I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; **And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.**"

- God tells Abram he will be the father of many
- His descendants will spend 400 years in captivity in another country
- **Abram-Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and 12 Sons; i.e. 12 Tribes**
- Joseph to Egypt/ Famine/ Jacob and sons go to Egypt **1700BC**

1. Moses raised up as deliverer **1500BC**
2. God uses Moses to deliver multitude across Red Sea
3. After crossing Rebelled when thing got hard/Giants

Unbelief

Hebrews 3:16 ... they could not enter in **because of unbelief.** [even after Red Sea rebel and generation dies]

- 10 Commandments / Moses disobeys and dies before entering
 - Joshua brings to Promised Land; flowing with milk and honey **1400BC**
 - Destroy most of enemies some left... Time of Judges
 - Turn away from God ask for King...Saul **1095BC**
 - Sacrifices looking forward to Jesus
 - David glorious kingdom **1000BC**
 - Solomon starts well falls apart into Idolatry of pagan nations
 - Kingdom Splits. 2 Kings. North called Israel, South called Judah **975BC**
 - Time of Kings and Prophets: Prophets sent to warn Kings who did not listen
 - Northern Kingdom Israel no good kings. Southern Kingdom Judah a few.
1. Northern Kingdom Idolatry: 2 Golden Calves [This is what God is like?]
 2. "Did evil in the sight of the Lord" "Provoked the Lord"
 3. Turned outward to Idolatry: Passing sons/daughters through the fire
 4. Queen of Heaven and false gods of other nations

Ezekiel 16:6 [Forgot God's goodness] "...[God speaking to Israel] when I passed by you and saw you struggling in your own blood, I said to you in your blood, 'Live!' Yes, I said to you in your blood, 'Live!' 7 I made you thrive like a plant in the field; and you grew, matured, and became very beautiful. Your breasts were formed, your hair grew, but you were naked and bare. 8 "When I passed by you again and looked upon you, indeed your time was the time of love; so I spread My wing over you and covered your nakedness. Yes, I swore an oath to you and entered into a covenant with you, and you became Mine," says the Lord God... **15 "But you trusted in your own beauty,** played the harlot because of **your fame,** and poured out your harlotry on everyone passing by who would have it... 20 "Moreover you took your sons and your daughters, whom you bore to Me, and these you sacrificed to them to be devoured. Were your acts of harlotry a small matter, 21 that you have slain My children and offered them up to them by causing them to pass through the fire? 22 And in all your abominations and acts of harlotry you did not remember the days of your youth, when you were naked and bare, struggling in your blood. [Adulterous wife]

- Northern Kingdom conquered by and deported to **Assyria 722BC**
- Southern Kingdom conquered by and deported to **Babylon 596BC**
- Ezra and Nehemiah rebuild but never great
- **398 BC** Completion of OT. 400 years of silence between Malachi OT and Matthew NT
- 400 years of God's silence but Enough **prophecy to know He is coming turn to Him**
- Jesus time: True believers [Simeon/Anna] waiting for the Savior. Those that should have known did not!

Luke 2:25 ... Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel

Luke 12:56 Hypocrites! You can discern the face of the sky and of the earth, how is it you don't discern this time?

After 4000 years, Did Israel fulfill their purpose? Glorify God

1. Left Relationship with God to sterile man-made organized religion.
2. **Leaders:** Pharisees/Sadducees Hypocrites

Romans 2:19 [You] are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, 20 an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, having the form of knowledge and truth in the law. 21 You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that a man should not steal, do you steal?

- After 400 years silence John the Baptist paves the way for the Savior: Repent the Kingdom is near!!!

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord;
Make His paths straight.'"

Israel: Fig tree planted on earth by God to bear Good Fruit; show the World who God is! 2000 years ago Jesus came to planet earth to see how the fig tree was doing...would there be fruit? Our story begins...

I. Fig Tree Withers

- **Triumphal Entry:** Palm Branches, Celebration

11 And Jesus went into Jerusalem and into the temple. So when He had looked around at all things, as the hour was already late, He went out to Bethany with the twelve.

- Jesus goes straight to the Temple to "check out the status" Inspection

Malachi 3:1 "Behold, I send My messenger [J the B], And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, **Will suddenly come to His temple...**³ He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, And purge them as gold and silver, That they may offer to the Lord An offering in righteousness.

- Looks around "**at all things**" but it was late so He left for Bethany

Luke 20:9 [Read]... "A certain man planted a vineyard, leased it to vinedressers, and went into a far country for a long time. 10 Now at vintage-time he sent a servant to the vinedressers, that they might give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the vinedressers beat him and sent him away empty-handed. 11 Again he sent another servant; and they beat him also, treated him shamefully, and sent him away empty-handed. 12 And again he sent a third; and they wounded him also and cast him out.

- **Owner/Planter vineyard:** God
- **Renters/Workers:** Jews
- **Servants:** OT Prophets:

1. Beat
2. Treated shamefully [smacked]
3. Sent him away empty handed...not fruit to show owner of vineyard

13 "Then the owner of the vineyard said, 'What shall I do? I will send my beloved son. Probably they will respect him when they see him.' 14 But when the vinedressers saw him, they reasoned among themselves, saying, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him, that the inheritance may be ours.' 15 So they cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. Therefore what will the owner of the vineyard do to them? 16 He will come and destroy those vinedressers and give the vineyard to others."

- Kill the Son of the vineyard owner: Jesus prophesying own death.
 1. Inheritance will be ours
 2. Power/Control of people
- Jesus goes to the temple and looked around:
- **Fruit Inspection begins:** Are my people glorifying My Father/delighting in Him?

12 Now the next day, when they had come out from Bethany, He was hungry. 13 And seeing from afar a fig tree having leaves, He went to see if perhaps He would find something on it. When He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs.

- Jesus on way to Jerusalem/Craving Fruit...none
- Spiritual Barrenness of His people Israel

Luke 19:41 ...as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, 42 saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this **your day**, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. 43 For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, 44 and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you **did not know the time of your visitation.**"

- 40 years later in 70ad their city would be destroyed

14 In response Jesus said to it, "Let no one eat fruit from you ever again." And His disciples heard it.

- Speaks to tree "Let no one eat from you again" in hearing of the disciples

15 So they came to Jerusalem. Then Jesus went into the temple and began to drive out those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. 16 And He would not allow anyone to carry wares through the temple.

John 2:14 ...He found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers doing business. 15 When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers' money and

overturned the tables. 16 And He said to those who sold doves, "Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!"

- Sat down and made a whip of cords
 1. Drove out those who both bought and sold
 2. Drove out the animals
 3. Flipped over seats of those who sold doves/ made them let doves go!
 4. Poured out the money/turned over tables
- He had already inspected. Failed inspection
 1. Glorifying God. Fail
 2. Delighting in God. Fail

INSPECTION UPDATE: Father, last night I took note that Your house has become a money making operation judging by the tables and the papyrus covered with number equations and listing of names. Today I saw the operation at work but did not hear Your Name Father mentioned once, nor Your Word Quoted, nor Glory given to You. Also, the only joy I saw was on the money changers faces as they gladly received a large fee in exchange for providing Your people an inadequate sacrifice... **I felt the need to make some changes and that is what I did.**

17 Then He taught, saying to them, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations'? But you have made it a 'den of thieves.' "

- Taught them:

**Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!" [John 2:16]
But...A House of Payer for All Nations! You were to show the Gentiles who I Am!**

- Everyone is invited!

Isaiah: 56:4 [Read] ...thus says the Lord: "To the eunuchs who keep My Sabbaths, And choose what pleases Me, And hold fast My covenant,⁵ Even to them I will give in My house And within My walls a place and a name Better than that of sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name That shall not be cut off.⁶ "Also the sons of the foreigner Who **join themselves to the Lord, to serve Him, And to love the name of the Lord, to be His servants**—Everyone who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, And holds fast My covenant—⁷ Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, And make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices Will be accepted on My altar; For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations."

18 And the scribes and chief priests heard it and sought how they might destroy Him; for they feared Him, because all the people were astonished at His teaching. 19 When evening had come, He went out of the city.

- Quite a day! Evening came and He went out of the city!

II. Fig Tree Cursed

20 Now in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. 21 And Peter, remembering, said to Him, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree which You cursed has withered away."

- **God would soon judge Israel:**

Luke 13:6 [Read] "A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. 7 Then he said to the keeper of his vineyard, 'Look, for three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree and find none. Cut it down; why does it use up the ground?' 8 But he answered and said to him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and fertilize it. 9 And if it bears fruit, well. But if not, after that you can cut it down.'" [Paul would go to his people the Jews and some would believe]:

Acts 28:24 [End of Paul's life in Rome] "Therefore let it be known to you that the salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will hear it!"

- Fig Tree Dried up from the roots and withered for 2000 Years
- 70 AD Jews forcefully dispersed from Land of Milk and honey
- Not the end of the story!

III. Fig Tree Bears Fruit

22 So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God. 23 For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. 24 Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them."

- Strange thing to say after Peter said; "Rabbi, look! The fig tree which You cursed has withered away."??

Believing that all things are possible with God/Nothing is Impossible with God

- Bible commentaries for 1900 years would say God is done with Israel because they did not believe God's prophetic WORD. **God is NOT finished with nation of Israel!**

The Impossible did Happen in 1948:

- **Dead Nation supernaturally brought back to life!**

Ezekiel 37:1 ... He brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of the valley; and it was full of bones. 2 He caused me to pass among them round about, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley; and lo, they were very dry. 3 He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord God, You know." 4 Again He said to me, "Prophesy over these bones and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord.'" 5 Thus says the Lord God to these bones, 'Behold, I will cause

breath to enter you that you may come to life. 6 I will put sinews on you, make flesh grow back on you, cover you with skin and put breath in you that you may come alive; and you will know that I am the Lord." 7 So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold, a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to its bone. 8 And I looked, and behold, sinews were on them, and flesh grew and skin covered them; but there was no breath in them. 9 Then He said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, 'Thus says the Lord God, "Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they come to life."'" 10 So I prophesied as He commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they came to life and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

- **3 Reason the Land Belongs to Israel**

1. God says it does
2. United Nations tool that made the transfer back to them
3. Won it in war

God will restore Israel to Himself / Embrace Jesus as Messiah

Romans 11

1. Israel was "cast away" as Branches broken off vine
2. Church now grafted into the vine and become partaker of the root [Jesus]
3. Church is not to "boast against the branches" Anti-Semitism...

"All the promises to Israel now belong to the Church. God is done with Jewish people and the Church has replaced Israel" NO: God's promises to Israel still stand...on-hold 2000 yrs.

4. Branches were broken off that church would be grafted in."
5. Because of unbelief Jews were broken off but we are to stand by faith
6. Do not be haughty, but fear.

Romans 11:21 ...if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either.

7. If Israel does not continue in unbelief, will be grafted back in
8. God is able to graft them in again.

Romans 11:25 For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel **until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.**

- **Fullness of Gentiles:** Last gentile to trust in Christ. God know the number!
- **Israel will begin to see after we are raptured and the Tribulation begins:**

Time of Jacob's [Israel's] Trouble: Tribulation 2nd half

Jeremiah 30:7 Alas! For that day is great, So that none is like it; And it is the time of Jacob's trouble, But he shall be saved out of it.

- **Also called 70th Week of Daniel:** Deals primarily with Daniel's People Israel

Daniel 9:24 "Seventy weeks are determined For **your people** and for **your holy city**, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy.

- After Spiritual Adultery...

Hosea 1:8 ...you are not My people, And I will not be your God.

- At the 2nd Coming Jesus will call them home...

Hosea 2:23 ...I will say to those who were not My people, 'You are My people!' And they shall say, 'You are my God!'"

- 144000 Jews raised up to show the world who God really is:
 1. Glorify Him
 2. Enjoy Him
 3. Witness to the world who He really is. {Follow the Lamb wherever He goes}
- Holocaust mid-tribulation: **AC goes after Jerusalem**

Luke 21:24 And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the **times of the Gentiles** are fulfilled.

- **Times of Gentiles:** Begins at Tribulation and end's at end of 7 years when Jesus sets up Earthly Kingdom and saves the Jewish people
- AC will pursue but God will protect and cover His wife, Israel

Adulterous Wife once again the Bride of God

- **Jesus reign on Earth**
 1. Satan Bound for 1000 years
 2. Israel back in the land. Church ruling over earth
 3. Jesus reigning. David prince.
 4. Long life. 100 years old considered young
 5. Satan loosed and put down forever
 6. Eternity begins as it will be forever.
 7. Israel and Church [Bride of Christ] dwelling in New Jerusalem as one

Revelation 21:9 [Read] Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, "Come here, **I will show you the bride**, the wife of the Lamb."10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, 11 having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper. 12 It had a great and high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels; and names were written on them, which are the names of the **twelve tribes** of the sons of Israel. 13 There were three gates on the east and three gates on the north and three gates on the south and three gates on the west. 14 And the wall of the city had twelve

foundation stones, and on them were the twelve names of the **twelve apostles** of the Lamb.

- Dwelling with Jesus forever: No curse...No sin, pain, death, the way supposed to be

Revelation 22:3 ...there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. 4 They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. 5 There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.

- Israel is our Time Clock for 2nd coming of Jesus: Started Ticking in 1948

Matthew 24:32 "Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. 33 So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors! 34 Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place. 35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

- Dead Fig Tree is now alive.
- One day soon Israel accept Jesus as their Messiah; He will wrap arms around them:

Matthew 23:37 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!

- One day soon: Jesus our Messiah!

Yeshua Ha-Mashiach

- The adulterous wife will be forgiven and restored
- People of Israel will embrace Jesus as their Lord and their Savior

Hosea 2:23 ...I will say to those who were not My people, 'You are My people!' And they shall say, 'You are my God!'"

**God is NOT finished with His people Israel by any means.
The fig tree will soon bear the fruit Jesus was craving**

IV. Forgiveness: Prerequisite to Answered Prayer

25 "...whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.

- **Stand praying;** i.e. asking God to act

Mark 11:22 [Jesus said] "Have faith in God. 23 For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says

to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. 24 Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

- Forgiveness **prerequisite, requirement, precondition** to prayer

1 Peter 3:7 Husbands...dwell with [your wives] with understanding, giving honor...as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your **prayers may not be hindered**. [Before coming to God...fix it]

Ephesians 4:26 ...do not let the sun go down on your wrath, 27 nor give place to the devil.

If you have *anything* against *anyone*...forgive

- Purpose in your mind to search your heart: Who do I have problem with?

Psalms 44:21 Would not God search this out? For He knows the secrets of the heart.

Psalms 139:23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; 24 And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.

- Remember when you were in the midst of being offended, betrayed, hurt
- Don't minimize the hurt/horror... but we are still to FORGIVE...
- Joseph:
 1. 11th brother of 12 sons of Jacob
 2. Brutally thrown into pit
 3. No concern/love/care/tenderness that should have been there
 4. Sold him: Used him for own gain, pleasure, treated like merchandise
 5. Surprised by betrayal of people he thought he could trust
 6. Given to his enemies, no care from those who should have been protecting
 7. Disconnected from father he loved through no fault of his own 20 yrs.
 8. Falsely accused of being the "bad one"
 9. Paying a price for something he did not do
 10. Betrayed by those he tried to help until they needed something from him
 11. Never turned from God; raised up and restored
 12. **Great Leader:** More whole, more godly, more wise than if nothing happened

Genesis 50:17 ... please, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of your father." And Joseph wept when they spoke to him. 18 Then his brothers also went and fell down before his face, and they said, "Behold, we are your servants." 19 Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? 20 But as for you, **you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day**, to save many people alive. 21 Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

Forgive: Gr. *aphiēmi* to send away, to let go, let alone, keep no longer

- **Forgive others** that "your Father in heaven may forgive you..."

- **Not a request but a command**...a litmus test if you know Jesus

26 But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses."

SUMMARY: If we do not forgive we will not be forgiven by God!

1. If someone has offended us we are to forgive...not a request
2. If we have offended someone... **we are to go to them**

V. Reconciliation

Matthew 5:21 [Read] "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.'²² But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire.

- **Angry without cause** lit. "in vain": Danger of "the judgment"

"So Jesus forbids for ever the anger which broods, the anger which will not forget, the anger which refuses to be pacified, the anger which seeks revenge." [Barklay]

- **Raca!** Senseless, empty-headed: Danger of the council.
 - Contempt for their intelligence
- **You fool!** Godless Danger of hell fire
 - Contempt for their character

But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. [Matthew 12:36]

- **Context:** You have said/done something and brother/sister knows you are angry:

23 Therefore [since you probably have been angry, called someone senseless or a fool] if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. **[Don't come to me without resolving this first]**

- God desires a **pure heart**:
 1. If someone has sinned against you...forgive them before coming to God
 2. If you have sinned against someone...be reconciled before coming to God

Galatians 5:14 ...all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: **"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."** [Purpose is to glorify God by loving others]

- What if someone has sinned against you...but they don't know/believe they have?

Matthew 18:12 [Read] "What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them goes astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine and go to the mountains to seek the one that is straying? 13 And if he should find it, assuredly, I say to you, he rejoices more over that sheep than over the ninety-nine that did not go astray. 14 Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that **one of these little ones should perish.**

- **Context:** God's heart is reconciliation, restoration...not separation

15 "Moreover [in light of the fact that God's desire is restoration] if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.

- **Step 1:** If you believe you have been sinned against: in humility and spirit of reconciliation...
 1. Go to him/her
 2. State the offense
 3. If he/she listens you have gained [restored] brother/sister/yourself [whole]

16 But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.'

- **Step 2:** Will not listen one on one: in humility and spirit of reconciliation...
 1. Take one or two others
 2. Listen to both sides
 3. 2 or 3 witnesses to verify what was said

17 And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church.

- **Step 3:** Will not listen to 2 or 3: in humility and spirit of reconciliation...
 1. Tell it to church
 2. Unrepentant of the offense
 3. Rebellion

17b But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector. 18 "Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

- **Step 4:** Will not listen to church leaders
 1. Heathen/Tax Collector

2. Do not treat them as if everything is okay spiritually
3. Talk of their need for repentance and restoration

19 "Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. 20 For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."

- 2-3 Gathered in my name: Context is discipline
- Type of earthly court led by the Lord:
 1. Humility
 2. Love
 3. Kindness
 4. Goal of restoration

Context Matthew 18:14 ... it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that **one of these little ones should perish**

- **Go now!** Root of bitterness

Hebrews 12:14 Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: 15 looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any **root of bitterness** springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled...

- **Bitterness:** Drinking poison and hoping the other person dies!
- **Choice to be better or bitter**

SUMMARY: Forgiveness and Reconciliation a prerequisite to coming to God in Prayer and Worship. Let's not kid ourselves. He is not listening when we are harboring resentment! If we do not forgive we will not be forgiven?! Not a request.

VI. Power to Forgive: We Forgive because we are Forgiven!

John 4:19 We love Him because He first loved us.

Romans 5:8 ...God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

- We forgive to the extent that we know our need for forgiveness

Luke 23:32 There were also two others, criminals, led with Him to be put to death. 33 And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left. 34 Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them,

for they do not know what they do.”

- We want to believe we are merciful, forgiving...we try our best and give our all?

Matthew 18:21 [Continued Read] Then Peter came to Him and said, “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?”

- **Peter goes the extra mile:** Way beyond what he thinks is the correct answer
- **After 7 Times** I can nurse bitterness and sweet resentment?

22 Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

- **490 Times:** Innumerable; all day long

23 Therefore [Therefore; because forgiveness is so important to God I will explain it like this...]

...the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.

- Money is owed to the king by His servants...**and He wants it!**

24 And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. 25 But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made.

- Servant owes king 10,000 talents:

1 talent = 60 minas

1 mina = 3 month's wages

1 talent = 60 x (3 months' wages) = 180 months' wages

1 talent = 180 months' wages / 12 months in a year = 15 years' wages

1 talent = 15 years' wages

10,000 talents = 150,000 years' wages.

So if a yearly wage is \$15,000 (\$8/hr. x 40 hrs.)

150,000 year's wages = Two Billion, Two Hundred Fifty Million Dollars [Conservative]

- Not able to pay
- King commands he and family be sold and payment made

26 The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, ‘Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.’ 27 Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.

- Pleaded with tears

1. Have patience with me!
2. I will pay you all!

- Kings compassion led to the kings forgiveness

28 "But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!'

- 100 Denarii: 100 Days wages
- 150000 years wages compared to 100 days wages

29 So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.'

- **Same words...**

30 And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. 31 So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. 32 Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. 33 Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' 34 And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him.

35 "So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."

Sin against us by others pales in comparison our sin against a Holy God. God sees our unforgiveness as disregarding what Jesus did on the cross for us

- Disregarding Jesus sacrifice leaves no room for our own forgiveness
- If we know how great a sin He forgave...we will forgive...period.
- Forgiveness/Mercy Reciprocal Agreement:

Matthew 5:7 Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.

James 2:12 So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty. 13 For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment. 14 What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him?

SUMMARY: We love because He first loved us. We forgive because we know His forgiveness.

Forgiveness is Not a Request

Mark 11:25 "...whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. 26 But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses."

VII. Jesus' Authority Questioned: All Authority has been Given

27 Then they came again to Jerusalem. And as He was walking in the temple, the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders came to Him. 28 And they said to Him, "By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority to do these things?"

- Walking in the Temple again...Chief Priests, Scribes and Elders got in His face
 1. What Authority do You think You have??
 2. Who gave You this Authority?
- **Authority to do what:** Cleanse the Temple

29 But Jesus answered and said to them, "I also will ask you one question; then answer Me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things:

- Answers question w/ question: If you get it right I will answer your question:

30 The baptism of John—was it from heaven or from men? Answer Me."

- Was John's baptism of God or Man...Answer Me!

31 And they reasoned among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' He will say, 'Why then did you not believe him?' 32 But if we say, 'From men'"—they feared the people, for all counted John to have been a prophet indeed.

- If they say...
- **From Heaven/God:** Why did you not believe that I am the Messiah; Lamb of God

John 1:29 ...John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

- If they say...
- **From Men:** People would turn. All Judea went down to see the Prophet John

Mark 1:5 ... all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, **confessing their sins.**

33 So they answered and said to Jesus, "We do not know." And Jesus answered and said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things."

- Seeking to Trap Him with questions

SUMMARY: Jesus Authority Questioned

Matthew 28:17 "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

Q. What Authority do You think You have? ALL

A. Who gave You this Authority? God the Father

- Authority to say these words:

Mark 11:26 ...if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses."

- Not minimizing the hurt but understanding the depth of God's forgiveness toward us
- Jesus was on His way to the cross for our sins when He said those Words
- **Authority to back up those Words**

Philippians 2:8 ...He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. 9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

1. End of life the King will demand payment for our sin:

- If we try to pay: Found Wanting: Eternal Punishment
- If Jesus paid: Paid in Full. Eternal Life...Enter in

The forgiven will forgive. If you do not/choose not to forgive... you are not forgiven.

Invitation to Forgive...now. If you hear My voice do not harden your hearts...and die in the wilderness of resentment and bitterness. You will be the one who loses.