

## SEQUOIA NOTES

### Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message...

#### Becoming a Praying People

With Gerrit Nieuwoudt - Prayer Catalyst  
January 26, 2020



Mark 11:12-25 (NLT)

The next morning as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry. <sup>13</sup> He noticed a fig tree in full leaf a little way off, so he went over to see if he could find any figs. But there were only leaves because it was too early in the season for fruit. <sup>14</sup> Then Jesus said to the tree, "May no one ever eat your fruit again!" And the disciples heard him say it.

<sup>15</sup> When they arrived back in Jerusalem, Jesus entered the Temple and began to drive out the people buying and selling animals for sacrifices. He knocked over the tables of the money changers and the chairs of those selling doves, <sup>16</sup> and he stopped everyone from using the Temple as a marketplace. <sup>17</sup> He said to them, "The Scriptures declare, 'My Temple will be called a house of prayer for all nations,' but you have turned it into a den of thieves."

<sup>18</sup> When the leading priests and teachers of religious law heard what Jesus had done, they began planning how to kill him. But they were afraid of him because the people were so amazed at his teaching.

<sup>19</sup> That evening Jesus and the disciples left the city.

<sup>20</sup> The next morning as they passed by the fig tree he had cursed, the disciples noticed it had withered from the roots up. <sup>21</sup> Peter remembered what Jesus had said to the tree on the previous day and exclaimed, "Look, Rabbi! The fig tree you cursed has withered and died!"

<sup>22</sup> Then Jesus said to the disciples, "Have faith in God. <sup>23</sup> I tell you the truth, you can say to this mountain, 'May you be lifted up and thrown into the sea,' and it will happen. But you must really believe it will happen and have no doubt in your heart. <sup>24</sup> I tell you, you can pray for anything, and if you believe that you've received it, it will be yours. <sup>25</sup> But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too.

- **Prayer is indispensable.**

"My house will be called a house of prayer..." Mark 11:17

- **Prayer allows us to exercise our authority.**

"I tell you, you can pray for anything, and if you believe that you've received it, it will be yours..." Mark 11:24

- **Prayer is a gift of grace.**

"In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence." Ephesians 3:12

**Big Idea: Embrace prayer as an indispensable and essential gift given to us so we can reign with Christ.**

#### What steps can we take?

- **Pray regularly.**

- **Pray with others.**

- **Pray expectantly.**

*"Thou art coming to a King, large petitions with thee bring, for His grace and power are such that none can ask too much." – John Newton*

*"What the Church needs today is not more machinery or better, not new organizations or more and novel methods, but [people] whom the Holy Spirit can use – [people] of prayer, [people] mighty in prayer. The Holy Spirit does not flow through methods, but through [people]. He does not come on machinery, but on [people]. He does not anoint plans, but [people] – [people] of prayer" - EM Bounds*



**Sequoia Impact Communities are where we  
live out our identity as a  
Family of Servants on Mission.**

To get plugged in email:

**impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org**

**Becoming a Praying People  
#4 of 7 - Jan. 26, 2020**

1) Take some time to discuss how your IC has been and will live out the Kingdom of Jesus together.

- In what ways have we been living like family recently? How will we live out our family identity in the coming week?
- How have we lived as servants to one another or to our world this past week? What needs or opportunities to serve is God asking us to lean into?
- How have we lived on mission where we live, work, play, or went this past week? Who do we know that needs to hear the good news of Jesus?

2) How did the message resonate with you? What questions or comments did it raise for you?

3) Read Mark 11:12-25. What do you find interesting or challenging about these passages? What does this tell us about prayer? How did Jesus model this for us?

4) When Jesus said that God's house will be called a house of prayer, what do you think he meant by that? Do you believe it applies to Sequoia as well? If so, in what ways can you support prayer at Sequoia?

5) Do you believe God answers prayers? Have you ever experienced answered prayer? If so, in what ways? Discuss this with your Impact Community.

6) Reflect on v. 22-25. What does it look like to have this kind of faith? What qualifiers does Jesus provide for us? Read James 4:1-3.

7) What steps can you take personally to grow in your dependence on the Lord through prayer? What steps can you take as a group to make prayer a priority during your meetings?

8) Action Step: In light of our prayer theme this month, discuss some people and things you can be praying for together as an IC. Take a few minutes to pray together.



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