

# SEQUOIA NOTES

## Today's Sequoia Message...

### Becoming a House of Prayer for All Nations

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor

January 28, 2024



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. 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."

- **Growth without fruit is a sign of decay.**

Isaiah 56:6-7 (NLT) "I will also bless the foreigners who commit themselves to the Lord, who serve him and love his name, who worship him and do not desecrate the Sabbath day of rest, and who hold fast to my covenant. <sup>7</sup> I will bring them to my holy mountain of Jerusalem and will fill them with joy in my house of prayer. I will accept their burnt offerings and sacrifices, because my Temple will be called a house of prayer for all nations."

- **God has created us to be faithful and fruitful.**

**Question: Am I growing in Christ? Is my spiritual life one of substance or just lip service?**

- **Faithfulness & fruitfulness are inextricably connected to prayer.**

*"The measure of my faithfulness & fruitfulness will be found in my prayer life."*

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- **Prayer changes things because God works through prayer.**

*"Prayerfulness is our declaration of dependence on God." Jim Cymbala*

**Big Idea: Seek God in prayer to become faithful & fruitful because prayer is the greater work!**



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we  
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To get plugged in email:

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**Becoming a House of Prayer for All Nations**  
**#1 of 5 - January 28, 2024**

- 1) Last week we looked at Overcoming Fear from Mark 8 where Jesus calmed the storm. Where have you seen God show up in moments of fear this week? What has God been saying to you in this regard?
- 2) Read Mark 11:12-25. What is the **Context** for this passage? Who is the writer and the recipients? Where does this fit in the book as a whole? What are the circumstances?
- 3) **Observation:** What “jumps out” in this passages? What interesting details do you observe? What surprises you about these stories? What questions does it raise for you?
- 4) **Meaning:** What was the meaning for the original recipients? What meaning is inferred in this for us?
- 5) How is prayer inextricably linked to our faithfulness and fruitfulness as people of God?
- 6) Why is our prayer life a good measure of our spiritual maturity?
- 7) **Application:** How is God speaking to you today through this message?
- 8) In what ways can you seek God in prayer so you grow in faithfulness and fruitfulness? What specific steps is God asking you to take today? Pray for one another!



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