

## Discussion Questions

### Mark 11:15-19

In this passage, Jesus enters the Temple and clears the commerce being carried out in the Temple. This would have caused a stir, but events like this happened before. When Judas Maccabeus reclaimed Jerusalem from the Antiocheans (Greek-ish Conquers) one of the first things he did was clear out the Temple and rededicate it. When Hezekiah becomes king, he restores the Temple (2 Chron 29). It was the job of the king to restore the Temple to its original purpose.

If you were a Pharisee, how would you have seen Jesus' action? How would you react?

What are some areas in the modern church that need to be "cleaned" out?

What does it mean that Jesus reminded the people that the Temple was to be a "house of prayer" and for "all nation?" When you consider the church today, has it succeeded in this admonition? Why or why not?

What can you do to contribute to the solution?

### Mark 11:20-26

There seems to be irony in this passage. The cursing of the fig tree becomes an example of Christ and his authority, and the authority his disciples have.

Here again, Jesus speaks about prayer. He has a particular emphasis with prayer at this point is forgiveness.

What were the original purposes of the Temple?

What was the purpose of the sacrificial system?

When Jesus is talking about forgiveness, he talks about the impossible. Do you find it challenging/sometimes impossible to forgive? Why or why not? Be honest. Most of us can forgive the small things, but what areas do you struggle to forgive?

Christians will do the impossible, they will forgive. What about your faith needs to grow in order for you to truly forgive?

### Mark 11:27-33

Now, it is the third day of the Passion Week. Jesus is confronted with the question of authority.

Why do you think Jesus does give them a direct answer? What is at issue here?

Jesus has authority over all creation (sickness, natural, spiritual) – he revealed this in his ministry. What must happen in your life for you to give Jesus authority over your life?