

THIS WEEK

GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH, KAILUA KONA, HAWAII

events

We will be celebrating **Communion today**. Please take an individual packet provided on the back table.

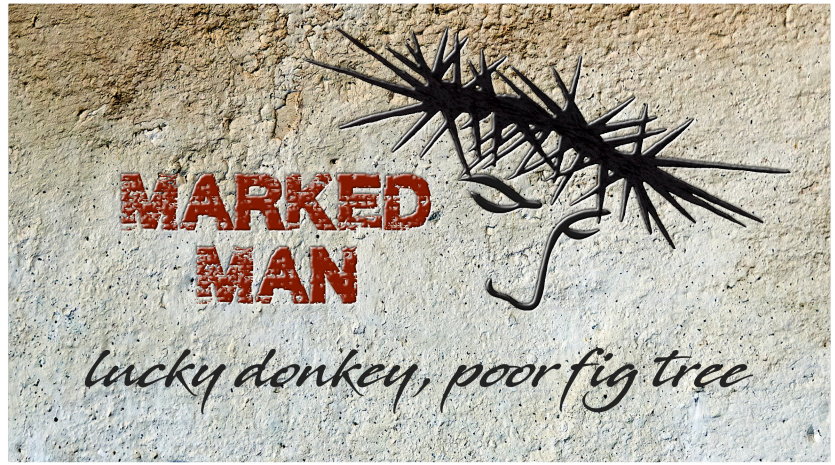
Today is **Bruce and Margie's last Sunday** before moving to California. We send them off with our love and prayers.

This year we will be blessing **Teen Challenge in Hilo** by going shopping! The list of their needed supplies is on the back table. Collection will be from **Jan. 24 to Feb. 14**. Teen Challenge offers a practical Bible-based program to help people struggling with addictions transition from alcoholism and substance abuse to a life of freedom in Christ. For more information - teenchallengehawaii.com.

Members, please stay after the service today for our **Annual Business Meeting**.

Ways to Give:

- Online
- Giving box at church
- Mail a check



SERMON NOTES

Andrew Severinsen - Mark 11:1-25

Big Idea: While Jesus has been giving evidence since He began His ministry that He is the Messianic King, He has been hesitant to let anyone else declare it... But in our text today, it's now time to make it known. He is our King. He is our Messiah.

Mark then "sandwiches" the clearing of the temple with the beginning and end of the fig tree episode.

- Jesus enters Jerusalem — The (Un)Triumphal Entry
- Jesus uses a fig tree to illustrate a problem
- Jesus presents the solution

GRACE GROUP Discussion Questions

Mark 11:1-25 — What does it say?

1. Chapter 11 marks the beginning of a narrative shift in the gospel. How has Mark set up the reader for the events leading up to Jesus' death and resurrection?
2. Why did Jesus travel to Jerusalem? What is significant about Jerusalem?
3. Why does Jesus instruct the disciples to bring the colt to Him (v. 2)? Why is Jesus' referring to Himself as "Lord" important?
4. What is the first thing Jesus does when He enters Jerusalem? Why does Mark make a point to tell us this?
5. How would you paraphrase the big idea of the triumphal entry? How does the story of the triumphal entry help prepare the reader for the death of Christ?
6. In vv. 12-14, why does Jesus curse the tree? Has the fig tree done something wrong? Explain.
7. What does the representation of a tree in leaf with no fruit represent in the current narrative?
8. What is Mark communicating by bookending the cleansing of the Temple with the pictures of the fig tree?
9. In v. 22, Jesus says that only faith matters. How does this idea fit into the stories of the fig tree and the cleansing of the temple?
10. In vv. 24-25, how does Jesus connect prayer with genuine faith and how it is expressed?

Mark 11:1-25 — How does it apply to our lives today?

1. Jesus makes quite the entrance into Jerusalem, both aware of His mission and ultimate direction. How does Jesus' level of authority and confidence, in the context of His week, give you hope in the situations you are facing?
2. What moments in your life generate feelings that make you celebrate Jesus? What does that look like?
3. What actions do you see as evidence of authentic faith? How can we assess those actions in our lives to determine if they are truly authentic? Is it possible to do that with others' actions?
4. What are some of the "spiritual expressions" or prayers that you may have stopped or changed as you grew in your understanding of what genuine faith looks like?

Spend some time sharing and praying together.