

Faith and Faithlessness

Mark 11:12-25

Hypocrisy is a Form of Faithlessness

(Mark 11:12-19)

- The metaphor of the Fig Tree
 - * Faithless temple worship was all leaves and no fruit
 - * We must guard our hearts against empty religion
- Hypocrisy always leads to corruption

The Foundation of Authentic Faith

(Mark 11:20-25)

- Authentic faith has God as its object
 - * We don't have faith in faith, but faith in a person
- Authentic faith is expressed in a willingness to forgive

How do the truths in this passage apply to me?

For Life Group Discussion

Mark 11:12-25

1. As Christians, how do we guard against the temptation toward hypocrisy?
2. Compare Ezekiel 37:15-19, Jerimiah 18:1-6; & Acts 21-10-12 with Mark 11:12-14 & 20-21. Is Jesus acting as a prophet? Are there other scriptures that refer to Him as a Prophet?
3. The statement was made "hypocrisy always leads to corruption," citing the misuse of the Court of the Gentiles as proof. Can you think of any contemporary examples?
4. Read Mark 11:20-25. Were you surprised that Jesus responded to Peter's statement with a teaching about faith, forgiveness, and prayer instead of an explanation about the fig tree?
5. How do you understand the promises of Mark 11:23 & 24 in light of verses such as Mark 11:22, Psalm 62:8, and John 14:1?
6. Read Mark 11:25, Matthew 5:7, 6:9-15, 7:2, 18:21-35 & James 2:13. What is the relationship between our willingness to forgive and the authenticity of our faith?