

SERMON SERIES: 52
SPEAKER: Scott Beckenhauer
DATE: October 8, 2023

Sermon Title:

“Was Jesus Political? Part 2”

Introduction

We continue into part 2 of last week's question, “Was Jesus Political?” This week we look at one of what is considered Jesus' most political actions, like clearing the temple. But when we look deeper at what Jesus is saying, we get to see what the house of God is intended to be.

- Talk about a time when you felt like church wasn't what it was intended to be. What happened? Were you able to move past it? Why?

Seek the Word

- Read Mark 11:12-14 and 20-25. What does Jesus' cursing of the fig tree symbolize and how does it relate to the cleansing of the temple?
- Read Mark 11:15-19. What was it the temple was supposed to offer the people that came there? What had it become instead of what it was intended for?
- Jesus emphasizes the importance of faith in verses 22-24, and in verse 14, he curses the fig tree for bearing no fruit. How do these elements tie together, and what does this teach us about the relationship between faith and fruit in our spiritual lives?

Go Deeper

In Mark 11:12-25, Jesus uses powerful actions involving a fig tree and the temple to convey profound spiritual lessons. To gain a deeper understanding of the cultural significance of fig trees and the significance of the temple in the first-century Jewish context, consider consulting historical and biblical commentaries. How might these insights enhance our comprehension of the spiritual truths Jesus intended to convey through these events?

Talk About It

- Reflecting on Jesus' actions with the fig tree and in the temple, are there areas in your own life where you might be "bearing no fruit"? How can you seek personal growth and spiritual development in these areas?
- Jesus quotes Isaiah, saying, "My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations." How can you contribute to making your local church or community a more welcoming and spiritually nurturing place for people from all walks of life?

Wrap Up

Reminder: The sign that is meant to hang on the Church of Jesus is “Welcome Home”.

Challenge: This week, extend an invite to your one life to visit Calvary with you. Spend some time beforehand in prayer that God might open their heart to the idea of possibly find a Home in the Church of Jesus.