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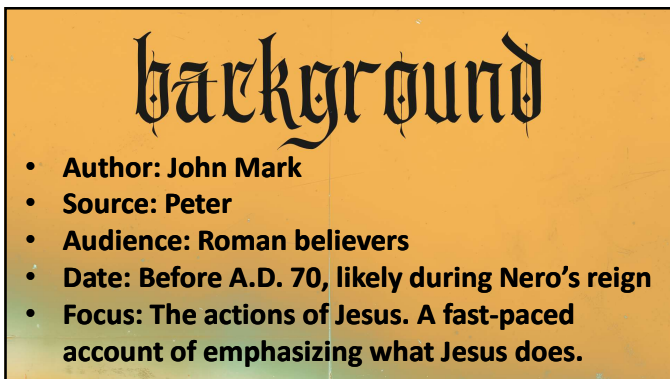
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# background

## Key Themes

- Jesus' authority
- Jesus as the suffering servant
- The cost of following Jesus
- Discipleship marked by sacrifice + faithfulness

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# truths

- The greatest threat to faith is not rebellion— it's self-reliance
- Jesus didn't die to upgrade your life – he died to give it purpose
- Forgiveness~ Transformation~ Eternity

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# MEMORY VERSE

## MARK 12:29-31

Jesus answered, "The most important is listen, Israel! The Lord our God, The lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is, love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other command greater than these."

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**MARK 11:11-19**

11 He went into Jerusalem and into the temple. After looking around at everything, since it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the Twelve. 12 The next day when they went out from Bethany, he was hungry. 13 Seeing in the distance a fig tree with leaves, he went to find out if there was anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves; for it was

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**MARK 11:11-19**

not the season for figs. 14 He said to it, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again!" And his disciples heard it. 15 They came to Jerusalem, and he went into the temple and began to throw out those buying and selling. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the chairs of those selling doves, 16 and would not permit anyone to carry goods

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**MARK 11:11-19**

through the temple. 17 He was teaching them: "Is it not written, My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations? But you have made it a den of thieves!" 18 The chief priests and the scribes heard it and started looking for a way to kill him. For they were afraid of him, because the whole crowd was astonished by his teaching. 19 Whenever evening came, they would go out of the city.

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**background**

**Early ministry (Gallilee and surrounding cities)**

- Teaching crowds
- Performing miracles
- Confronting religious leaders
- Revealing authority

➤ **Turning point (Caesarea Philippi)**

**Later ministry (on the way to Jerusalem)**

- Focus on disciples
- Passion predictions
- Redefining greatness and faith

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**context**

**Mark uses a literary "sandwich":**

- Cursing the fig tree (vv.12–14)
- Cleansing the temple (vv.15–19)
- Withered fig tree (vv.20–21)

**The tree interprets the temple.  
The temple explains the tree.**

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I. FRUITLESS – THE WITHERED TREE  
*God condemns outward appearance with no inward reality.*

- Leaves without fruit

Mark 11:13 — “He found nothing but leaves.”  
→ It looked alive, but it was empty.

- Privilege without obedience

Israel had revelation, law, temple...but no repentance.

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I. FRUITLESS – THE WITHERED TREE  
*God condemns outward appearance with no inward reality.*

- Profession without transformation

Saying the right things without a changed heart.

Application:

It is possible to look alive spiritually but be barren.

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There are many whose religion consist of nothing but a name.

*j.c. ryle*

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**II. CORRUPT – THE DEFILED TEMPLE**

*God rejects worship that is outwardly religious but inwardly corrupt.*

- Worship without reverence

The temple had strayed from its true purpose

- Religion without righteousness

Jeremiah 7:11 — “Has this house... become a den of robbers?”

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**II. CORRUPT – THE DEFILED TEMPLE**

*God rejects worship that is outwardly religious but inwardly corrupt.*

- Worship was not a priority

The Court of the Gentiles was filled with business — the very place meant for the nations to pray.

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**II. CORRUPT – THE DEFILED TEMPLE**

Mark 11:17 — “My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations, but you have made it a den of thieves!”

**Application:**

We must ask: Is our worship God-centered or self-centered?

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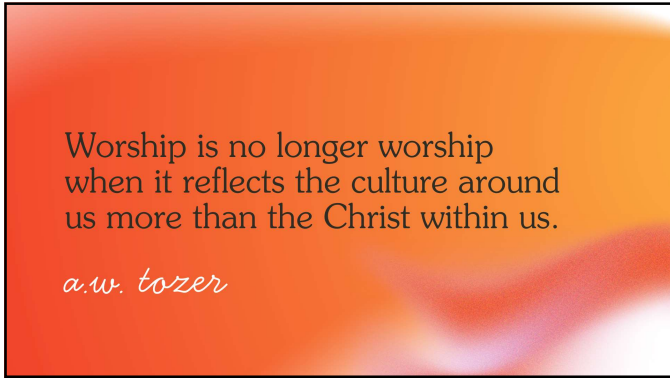
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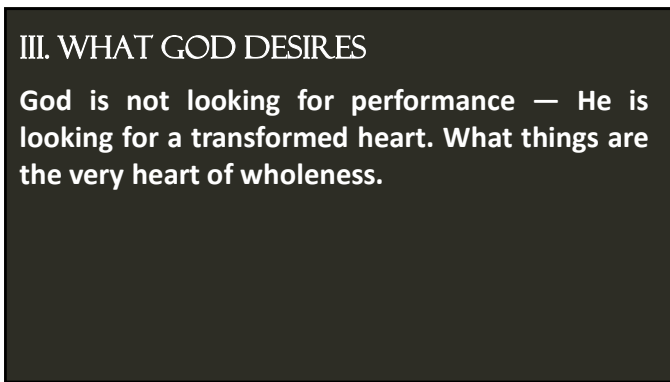
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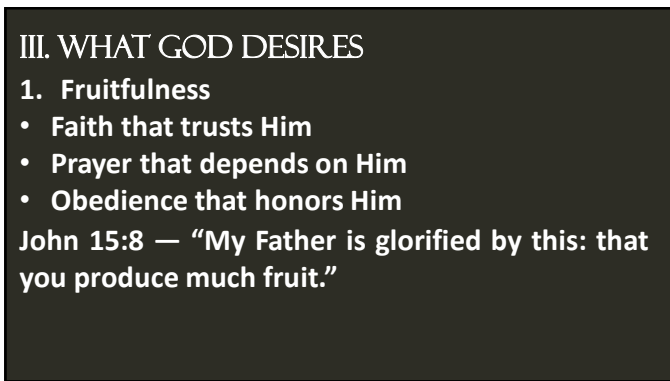
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III. WHAT GOD DESIRES

2. Holiness

- Love
- Purity
- Sincerity

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God didn't call us to be impressive.  
He called us to be faithful.

*francis chan*

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IV. HOW MUCH MORE

If Israel was judged for fruitlessness... how will we be judged?

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**IV. HOW MUCH MORE**

**I. Jewish Privileges (Covenant Israel) - Romans 9:4-5**

- 1. Adoption as a Nation**
- 2. The Glory (Shekinah Presence)**
- 3. The Covenants**
- 4. The Law**
- 5. The Temple Worship**
- 6. The Promises**
- 7. The Patriarchs**
- 8. The Messiah (according to the flesh)**

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**IV. HOW MUCH MORE**

**II. Our Christian Privileges (New Covenant Believers)**

- 1. Personal Adoption (Romans 8:15)**
- 2. Indwelling Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19)**
- 3. The Completed Canon of Scripture**
- 4. Direct Access to God (Hebrews 4:16)**
- 5. The Finished Work of Christ (John 19:30)**
- 6. The Church (Global Body of Christ)**
- 7. The New Covenant (Luke 22:20)**
- 8. Assurance and Sealing (Ephesians 1:13-14)**

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*If Greater privilege brings  
greater responsibility,  
how much more should  
we bare fruit?*

(LUKE 12:48)

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The greatest judgment falls not on pagans in darkness, but on those who sit under gospel light and remain unchanged.  
*paul washer*

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**takeaways**

**Jesus is still cleansing His temple**  
**Real faith produces real change**

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