

Unexpected Confrontation

September 27, 2020



Reading/Group Discussion

Begin with prayer

As you begin your gathering, designate someone to pray the Holy Spirit would lead and guide your time together. Before they do so, spend a few moments together in prayerful silence. Then, after a few seconds of quiet and centering, have the specified person pray for the group.

Read this overview

During this 13-week series, we are going to be opening up the Book of Mark together to study the life of Jesus—The Unexpected King. During this series, we will gain a better understanding of who Jesus is and what it really means to be his disciple.

This past weekend Dan preached on **Mark 11** and Jesus' Unexpected Confrontation.

Scripture + Discussion

The goal of your discussion in this week is to discuss the sacrificial nature of Jesus' kingship and the sacrificial nature of being a disciple of Jesus.

Take turns reading through all the way through **Mark 11:12-12:26**. Then, use the questions below to guide your discussion to hit on the above objectives.

Here are a few questions to open and guide this time:

- What from this passage/sermon challenged or deepened your discipleship to Jesus?
- Why is it important for Jesus to cleanse the temple? What does Jesus' cleaning of the temple have to say about his kingship (see **2 Chronicles 29** and **2 Kings 22-23**)?
- If we (the Church and each person) are now God's temple (**1 Corinthians 3:16**), what right does Jesus have to cleanse our own hearts and assess our fruitfulness?
- Imagine sitting across the table from Jesus and him looking over your life. Imagine him lovingly, but truthfully, assessing the fruit in it. What grade do you imagine Jesus would give your life based on the fruit in it? What areas of your life do you think Jesus would applaud you in? Which areas do you feel he'd say you have some room to grow?

- Is that something you'd welcome (**Psalm 139:23-24**) or would you want to avoid it? Would you try to hide things or sweep some things under the rug with Jesus? Or would you lay all things bare for him to see (as if he doesn't already see it all)?
- In this sermon Dan described a fruitful life as one consisting of transformed character, redemptive relationships, and service. Which of these three areas have you have seen the most fruit in? Which do you think God is inviting you to grow in? Explain.
- How do you think the temple being unclean correlated to its lack of fruit? How might impurity in our hearts lead to a lack of fruit in our lives? When have you seen this to be true in your own life?
- What is one practical application God is inviting you into to practice this week as a result of the sermon, the passage, and this discussion?

Accountability

Take some time this week to split your group into smaller or gendered groups and share your answers to the accountability questions below and go over the challenge for this week. Be sure to follow up on anything that was shared last week.

- Have you memorized **Philippians 2:5-11**?
- What has your time in God's word and prayer been like this week?
- What have you learned from Jesus this week?
- Have you consistently reflected the love of Christ to those in your life this week (such as your spouse, children, or co-workers)?
- Where have you wrestled with temptation this week?
- What sins do you need to confess right now?
- Have you been 100% honest?

Finish with prayer

This week end your time together by praying the following based on **Psalm 139:23-24**.

Loving and gracious Father,

We humbly invite you to search us and know us. We do not presume to be all-knowing, to have our selves figured out, to think that our lives are not in need of growing in holiness. Try us and know our thoughts. Lord, if there be any grievous way in us, anything that pertains not to godliness, show us. Lead us in the way everlasting – the way of your son Jesus.

Amen.