



B Group Study Guide

Week of March 24, 2013

“Who is Jesus” Series

Message – “Bearing Fruit”

**Primary Scripture: Mark 11: 7-26
 John 12: 24-28**

Additional Scripture & Reading

Tim Keller’s “King’s Cross” – Chapter 13

Here are some general ideas, themes, and questions for this study to use at your discretion -

The focus of this Scripture and this message is about “bearing fruit” – in a church, and in a life.

It is Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week. Jesus is entering Jerusalem. The people are shouting – “Hosanna in the highest!”

And Jesus enters on a donkey.

Then he enters the temple and literally cleans it out. Then he tells a fig tree it shall never bear fruit again.

This is, no way around it, a strange passage. What is it saying to us?

1) Mark 11: 7-10 – the Savior on a Donkey

What does it mean for you to see Jesus choosing a donkey to arrive into Jerusalem?

Roman soldiers had the finest horses available to ride on. Yet Jesus chose

something simple and humble.

It begs us to ask – do we seek the “thoroughbred” or the donkey in our lives? We have a Savior who chose the donkey. Would we?

2) Mark 11: 11 & 15-17 – the Savior cleaning the temple



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This is a passage showing Jesus, not as a meek, mild, hippie, but as someone very angry.

It's interesting that in the temple at that time, non-Jews were excluded, a "temple-tax" was charged (like if you wanted to give a tithe you actually had to exchange your money to give to the "temple currency), and the poor were charged a very high price for things such as doves.

This is not God's house.

Do these things (going to church for business, making a profit, excluding people,) happen in churches today? Do they happen at Bellwether? If so, how do we stop them?

3) Mark 11: 12-14 & 20 - 25 - The Fig Tree

Jesus seemingly gets angry at a tree and tells it no one will eat from it again.

Bizarre. What does it mean?

Tim Keller writes that many fig trees would only grow leaves, and would bear no fruit.

Mark, as the writer of the Gospel, literally "sandwiches" these two incidents (the fig tree and cleaning the temple) to focus on what's in the middle - which is the temple cleansing. The fig tree is like the temple (or church) if the focus is on looking good, without bearing fruit.....it's not good.

So, how can we truly be the church of Jesus Christ?

Some answers are found in Mark 11: 22-25 & then John 12: 24 - 28.

Think on and pray about these Scriptures. Feel free to discuss in your groups what God brings to your mind and heart.