



First Baptist Church of Cypress
**COMING BACK TO
PRAYER AND WORSHIP**

MARK 11:12-26

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Mark draws a conclusion in verse 1 of Jesus' Galilean & Gentile ministries which moves into the final phase of Christ's 3-year ministry in Jerusalem. Early the next morning, probably before 6:00am Jesus and his disciples are leaving Bethany, where Mary, Martha and Lazarus lived and they are looking for some breakfast.

Mark 11:12-26

On the following day, when they came from Bethany, he was hungry. **13** And seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to see if he could find anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. **14** And he said to it, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard it. **15** And they came to Jerusalem. And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold and those who bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. **16** And he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple. **17** And he was teaching them and saying to them, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations'? But you have made it a den of robbers." **18** And the chief priests and the scribes heard it and were seeking a way to destroy him, for they feared him, because all the crowd was astonished at his teaching. **19** And when evening came they[a] went out of the city. **20** As they passed by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered away to its roots. **21** And Peter remembered and said to him, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree that you cursed has withered." **22** And Jesus answered them, "Have faith in God. **23** Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him. **24** Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. **25** And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. **26** But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father who is in heaven forgive your trespasses"

1. MISLEADING APPEARANCES suggested great productivity with NOTHING TO SHOW. (v 12-14)

- Spiritual HYPOCRISY and FRUITLESSNESS Leads to Spiritual JUDGMENT and EMPTINESS.
- Jesus doesn't divinely act out of FRUSTRATION but out of PURPOSE.

2. Spiritual CLEANSING is God's WILL Among a REBELLIOUS People. (v 15-19)

- The true purpose of God's temple is PRAYER for the NATIONS and WORSHIP of GOD.
- PRAYER was being NEGLECTED as PROFIT was being EXTORTED.

3. Faith believes in the POWER of God's WORD. (v 20-24)

Our faith:

- Reveals God's TRUTH and POWER
- SEEKS to do God's WILL

“This is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.” 1 John 5:14

There is no limit on a believers prayer, as long as they are according to God's will and purpose. This means that it is not the believers responsibility to figure out how it all works, but simply to be faithful and obedient to the clear teaching on prayer, as Jesus gives it in this passage. One commentator said, “God's will is being unfolded through all of redemptive history, by means of the prayers of His people - as His saving purpose is coming to pass through the faith of those who hear the gospel and repent.”

And as we pray today, however you are praying to God in this moment; the Jewish tradition for prayer is to stand and pray; start by giving God praise and being thankful and consider his sovereign grace and mercy that saves you from your sins. Pray for His will to be done and pray for others. As verse 25-26 says, “to pray and forgive those that you may have something against that your Father in heaven may also forgive you. He will truly forgive you and continue the work of His purpose in your life.” Successful prayer requires forgiveness as well as faith.