

## **NOTES**

*Scripture: Mark 11:12-26, Luke 19:11-27, Luke 19:41, and Ephesians 2:8-9.*

## **REVIEW AND INTRODUCTION**

What have you learned so far in our adventure with Jesus through the Gospel of Mark? Have you made any changes in your life based on what you've learned? If so, what changes have you made, and how are those changes going for you? Talk this over in your Life Group and pray for each other as you follow Jesus together.

Looking back over your notes, what did you find most helpful, challenging, or interesting in this week's teaching? Was there anything you've never heard before or something that made you think differently?

Do you prefer turkey bacon or regular bacon?

What is a parable? Can a parable be a true story, or is it always fictional?

What does it mean for someone to produce fruit?

When Jesus looks at your life, do you think He sees fruit or not? What fruit do you think He sees?

### **MY STORY**

The Jews were called to be a blessing to other nations. How can a nation be a blessing to other nations? Have you seen this in today's world? How? Have you seen this fall short in today's world? How?

Israel was also called to be a righteous and holy people. What does that mean? Why weren't they living up to that?

Do you think you are called to be righteous and holy? What does this mean for you? How are you doing with this call on your life?

In this account from Mark 11, people saw Jesus differently. The religious leaders were afraid of and threatened by Jesus. Some were shocked by Jesus' actions, while others were hopeful because He stood up to the corruption displayed by the leaders at that time. Based on Jenn's message, who do you think Jesus is? What does this mean for your life?

Jenn said that the religious leaders were a part of the ruling class. When the ruling class is allowed to operate without accountability, corruption, greed, exploitation, control, and distortion of the truth are often experienced. In what ways are our ruling class guilty of these things? As Christians, what responsibility or role do we have?

While this analogy isn't quite the same as what Jesus experienced in the temple court, imagine that you arrive home to a yard sale with all of your possessions for a minute. Those holding the sale are not your family. They keep the money from the sale and do not acknowledge you. How would you react? What would you think? And, how would you feel?

Did you cheer for Jesus when He called out the robbers in the temple? Did you feel like His actions were just and right? Now, how do you feel when He calls you out and offers correction? Do you cheer Him on then and appreciate the correction?

Do you recognize Jesus' authority in your life? Where do you see it most? Or, what area/s of your life do you struggle with His authority over your life?

Have you ever experienced a time when it seemed like faith alone wasn't enough? What happened? How did you walk through that?

Jenn said if you have surrendered your life to Jesus' lordship, then when you stand before God after your life on earth ends, He will see you as His child, as one loved by Him, as one saved by Him, and as someone who Jesus' blood has washed clean. How do you think God sees you? Why?

Does your life look different than the world around you? How? Are there areas in your life where your faith isn't impacting your life? Is there an area where you feel dead?

### **DIGGING DEEPER**

*Read through these guiding scriptures and answer the corresponding questions.*

#### **Read Luke 19:11-27**

Does the parable of the minas seem fair to you? Why or why not? What does this say to us about how God views us? How does this parable make you think about your life and how you use the gifts and talents God has given you?

What gets in the way of you using the gifts, talents, and influence God has entrusted to you?

#### **Read Ephesians 2:8-10, James 2:14-26, Romans 10:5-15**

What does "saved by grace" mean? What is the relationship between faith and works in a believer being saved?

If you're a follower of Jesus, what is your next step based on these verses? If you're not yet a follower of Jesus, what do these verses mean to you?

### **BRINGING IT HOME**

The temple was God's house, so when Jesus turned over tables, He was cleaning up His own house. Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. What does this verse tell us about our bodies if we are followers of Jesus?

We know from Jenn's message that Jesus cleaned house in the temple because it was God's house; how does this relate to 1 Corinthians 6:19-20? Do you think God wants to clean His house in you? What do you think He wants to clean out of you? Are you surrendering these parts of your life to Jesus? If so, what does that surrendering process look like? If not, what's holding you back?

Do you have people to pray with you and help you be accountable in this process? Discuss this with your Life Group and pray with one another over how to work with God to clean His temple in you.

There will come a day when each of us will stand before a sovereign and Holy God to be judged by Him. How does the idea of God's judgment over your life make you feel? Can you hold this tension with the truth that He truly loves you?

Think of who you said Jesus was in an earlier question; does that impact how you feel about that judgment? Have you ever considered what Jenn mentioned that Jesus is both your Judge AND your Defense Attorney? If you feel hesitant or fearful about your coming judgment, what can you do about that? Have you asked Jesus to be your Lord and Savior? If not, read Romans 10:9-13. What is keeping you from putting your faith in Jesus as your Lord and Savior? Discuss with your Life Group.

"What we do with Jesus determines where we spend eternity, but what we do with our lives impacts that eternity." Jesus loves you and died so His blood would cover all of your sins - that is true and wonderful and something you need to hold onto, but... Jesus also expects more. He has given you gifts and talents and an opportunity to do amazing things for Him. What specifically are you doing with those gifts He's given you? Do you feel like there is something else, different, or even something more you should be doing with what God has given you? If so, discuss these with your Life Group.

**Your Next Steps are:** **1)** Ask God to show you the fruit of your life and how you can best use what He's given you to serve Him fully. **2)** If you're not doing life with other believers, join a Life Group – it's not too late (<https://thevineyard.churchcenter.com/groups>).