

“Have Faith In God”
Mark 11:12-33
9/1/24
Message 27

Introduction

- Title Of The Message: “Have Faith In God”

- **Review Chapter 11**

- **The Lord Has Need Of IT - The Triumphal Entry**

- The Preparation vs. 1-6
 - The Disciple get the donkey – Just like Jesus said
 - The Praise vs. 7-11
 - They lay their clothes out and wave Palm Branches
 - Shout Hosana – Save Now
 - The Jewish people should not have missed this day
 - We left Jesus at the Temple = Jesus was making His assessment –
 - He then leaves and makes His way back to Bethany

- **Now This Morning 4 Wonderful Truths To Have Faith In God**

- Faith In God Produces Fruit vs. 12-19
 - Faith In God Believes In The Power Of His Word vs. 20-24
 - Faith In God Produces Forgiveness vs. 26-26
 - Faith In God Understands His Authority vs. 27-33

Faith In God Produces Fruit vs. 12-19

- **First: The Curse Of The Fig Tree vs. 12-14**

- **1st Now The Next Day v. 12**

Mark 11:12 (NKJV)

12 Now the next day, when they had come out from Bethany, He was hungry.

- **Context – Inspection back to verse 11**

Mark 11:11 (NKJV)

11 And Jesus went into Jerusalem and into the temple. So when He had looked around at all things, as the hour was already late, He went out to Bethany with the twelve.

- On Sunday, after the Triumphal Entry

- Jesus had gone to the temple & inspected it.

- **Jesus had returned to His house – “As He Looked around”**

- The worship being offered there was NOT genuine

- Remember this was not the first time He made a Judgment (John 2:13-22)

- Jesus cleansed the temple on another visit to Jerusalem

- Nothing HAS CHANGED

- It was all a religious show, a sham.

- There was no

- Genuine fruit of righteousness

- No Heart for the covenant on the part of the national and religious leaders.

- It was Just and Empty Performance

- Now Jesus will make His Judgment!!!!

○ **2nd Seeing from afar a fig tree having leaves v. 13**

Mark 11:13 (NKJV)

13 *And seeing from afar a fig tree having leaves, He went to see if perhaps He would find something on it. When He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs.*

▪ **Jesus Gives and Object Lesson**

- A Fig tree with Leaves BUT NO FIGS
 - This is not the case with these fig trees
 - Which normally do not have leaves without also having figs.
 - Even though it was not it's season they should have baby figs – they come in with the leaves
- The tree was a picture of False Advertising
 - It saying ONE thing YET Doing something completely different

○ **3rd In response Jesus said to it, “Let no one eat fruit from you ever again” v. 14**

Mark 11:14 (NKJV)

14 *In response Jesus said to it, “**Let no one eat fruit from you ever again.**” And His disciples heard it.*

▪ **The “Fig Tree”**

- Was frequently an OT type of the Jewish nation
 - (Joel 1:7 / Hos. 9:10 / Nah. 3:12 / Zech. 3:10)

Joel 1:7 (NKJV)

7 *He has laid waste My vine, And ruined My fig tree; He has stripped it bare and thrown it away; Its branches are made white.*

▪ **The Meaning of The Object Lesson**

- A divine object lesson concerning Israel's Spiritual Hypocrisy / Fruitlessness
 - Israel was to be a separate people
 - To represent God to the Rest of the World
 - They were given instruction on Worship How to have a relationship with God
 - How to show the rest of the world HOW to have a relationship with God
 - YET they FAILED
 - Israel had the outward FORM but NO FRUIT!
 - An Empty SUIT if you will

▪ **In this picture, Jesus warned Israel – and us –**

- God's displeasure
 - When we have the appearance of fruit but not the fruit itself
 - God isn't pleased when His people are all leaves and no fruit.

2 Timothy 3:5 (NKJV)

5 *having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!*

- This MUST NOT be the CASE
 - More Application on this is a minute

- Sadly - It even gets worse for Israel
 - NOT only did the SAY one Thing and Do Another
 - BUT they made the worship of God a business

- **Second: The Cleaning Of The Temple vs. 15-19**

- **1st Then Jesus went into the temple and began to drive out those vs. 15-16**

Mark 11:15–16 (NKJV)

15 *So they came to Jerusalem. Then Jesus went into the temple and began to drive out those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves.*

16 *And He would not allow anyone to carry wares through the temple.*

- **There was quite a racket going on in the temple in those days.**
 - 1st Selling and Buying
 - Originally
 - The idea was to provide a service for those who had to travel so far to offer their sacrifices
 - Instead of having to bring their animal with them, they could simply purchase an animal at the Temple to sacrifice (Deut. 14:24-26)
 - So the plan was a good plan – to help people
 - But
 - The priests learned they could make a few bucks by charging higher prices in the Temple

- Also since all sacrifices needed to be “without blemish”
 - Since the priests were the one to determine what was “without blemish”
 - They could disqualify any sacrifices not purchased at the Temple
 - Take But your animal for a small fee and charge an outrageous fee for their approved animals
 - The temple area was filled with profiteers who worked in cooperation with the priests and robbed the pilgrims by forcing them to purchase approved sacrificial animals and currencies at inflated prices.
- 2nd Money Changing
 - Whether it was to bring their “tithe”, the tenth of their income (Mal. 3:10)
 - Or to pay the annual temple tax (Ex. 30:13)
 - The people were bringing money to give to God.
 - But at some point
 - Someone decided that pagan Gentile coins were not acceptable in God’s Temple.
 - And that’s how the moneychangers got started
 - And the Exchange Rates were outrageous

- *Alfred Edersheim, a Jewish historian and cultural expert says that at this time in history, the priests were netting the equivalent of \$300,000 a year in money exchange alone.*

- 3rd Dove Selling

- The poor man's sacrifice.
- If you were too poor to sacrifice a sheep or goat, you could sacrifice doves.
- Nothing sickens God's heart more than taking advantage of the poor.

- 4th That any man should carry any vessel through the temple.

- People were using the Temple grounds as a shortcut.

- The WHOLE things POINTS to ONE THING

- Making Money off of the Worship of GOD
- Sadly - There is a LOT of this in today's church

- 2nd The He Taught Them vs. 17-19

Mark 11:17–19 (NKJV)

17 Then He taught, saying to them, ***“Is it not written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations’? But you have made it a ‘den of thieves.’ ”***

18 And the scribes and chief priests heard it and sought how they might destroy Him; for they feared Him, because all the people were astonished at His teaching.

19 When evening had come, He went out of the city.

- **A den of thieves is a place where thieves associate and hide.**

- Quoting (Isaiah 56:7 & Jeremiah 7:11)

Jeremiah 7:11 (NKJV)

11 *Has this house, which is called by My name, become a den of thieves in your eyes? Behold, I, even I, have seen it," says the LORD.*

- It is a sorry, shameful condition that has taken place
- Not Only was Israel –
 - A Fruitless Tree (Not True Worshipers)
 - BUT they are using God's house as a way to get rich!
- **All this stuff was causing people to hate going to church.**
 - Example of Israel's past
 - 1 Samuel
 - High Priest Eli's Sons Hophni and Phinehas were doing all kinds of things to rip people off, using their position for sex

• Third: Application - Consecrate Yourself to GOD

- **1st Lesson # 1 – Don't Be FAKE**
 - **Don't be an Empty Suit**
 - Don't be Like Israel
 - Examine Your Walk with God
 - **God is Serious About FRUIT**
 - Listen We might be tempted to say

- This was all about Israel

- I am sure glad God taught those Jews a good lesson
- But we're not Jews

Romans 11:17–22 (NKJV)

17 And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree,

18 do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you.

19 You will say then, "Branches were broken off that I might be grafted in."

20 Well said. Because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear.

21 For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either.

22 Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off.

- **2nd Lesson # 2 - He Desires Fruit**

- What does "fruit" look like? - What are we talking about?
- **1st It should be seen in your own personal life**

Ephesians 4:1 (NKJV)

1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

Philippians 1:27 (NKJV)

27 Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,

Galatians 5:16 (NKJV)

16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Galatians 5:22–23 (NKJV)

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

- The Results Are Seen
 - In your daily life
 - Work done in the church
 - Reaching lost people and building up fellow believers.

▪ **2nd How Do We Produce Fruit?**

- Simple Answer WE DON'T – It is a Work of the HS
 - Turn to John 15 - We Abide

John 15:1–8 (NKJV)

- 1** *"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.*
2 *Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.*
3 *You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.*
4 *Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.*
5 *"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.*
6 *If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.*
7 *If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.*
8 *By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.*

- Abiding Involves
 - **1st Pruning v. 2**
 - Being cut back, cutting back the non-essentials

- Sometimes we are pruned through the difficult times we go through

Hebrews 12:11 (NKJV)

11 Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

- I think that Jesus cleansing the Temple was pruning.
- **2nd Abide in Jesus v. 4**
 - Stay connected to Jesus
 - In Prayer
 - In the Word
 - In Fellowship
 - Illustration
 - Seen many come and go
 - Come for a while the world pulls them back
 - Some even stay – but never move forward
- **3rd The Word Abide in My Words (v. 7)**
 - David writes about the godly man who meditates in God's Word day and night

Psalms 1:1–3 (NKJV)

1 Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;

2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.

3 He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.

○ **4th Prayer – Your Will Ask (v. 7)**

- Each of us as individuals are a temple of the Holy Spirit (1Cor. 6:19).
- What did Jesus say that the Temple was to be called? A house of prayer
- Be a man and woman of prayer

○ **5th Keep going – keep doing good**

- If you fallen – GET UP
 - Kieth Green
 - Make my life a prayer to you
 - I wanna do what you want me to
 - No empty words and no white lies
 - No token prayers no compromise
 - I wanna shine the light you gave
 - Through your son you sent to save us
 - From ourselves and our despair
 - It comforts me to know you're really there

Faith In God Believes In The Power Of His Word vs. 20-24

• First: Power Is Seen In What Happened To The Fig Tree vs. 20-22

○ **1st Now The Next Morning vs. 20-21**

Mark 11:20–21 (NKJV)

20 Now in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots.

21 And Peter, remembering, said to Him, “Rabbi, look! The fig tree which You cursed has withered away.”

- **Peter Remember**

- Verse 14 – His Disciples Heard It
- They were listening
- Are we listening to His Voice

- **2nd Have faith in God v. 22**

Mark 11:22 (NKJV)

22 So Jesus answered and said to them, “*Have faith in God.*”

- **A gentle rebuke for the disciples’**

- They had a Lack of faith in the Power of His word.
 - Faith believes in God’s
 - Revealed truth
 - His power
 - Seeks to do His will
 - Jesus explained that this miracle was really the result of a prayer made in faith
 - He encouraged His marveling disciples to have this kind of faith, trusting that God would hear them also.

- **Faith IN...**

- Faith in What?

- Faith?
- Performance?
- FAITH IN GOD
 - Jesus made it clear that prayer must be offered in faith
 - That faith must be in God.
 - Faith is trust, confidence, and reliance upon someone or something.
 - Faith that rests in God is unwavering trust in His omnipotent power and unfailing goodness
 - Illustration
 - Disciples could not cast out the demon – attempting to do ministry in their own power
 - Needed to do it with FAITH in GOD to do the work

● **Second: Power Is Seen In Knowing How Great God Is vs. 23-24**

- **1st Whoever says to this mountain, “Be removed” vs. 23-24**

Mark 11:23–24 (NKJV)

23 *For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.*

24 *Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.*

- **Does this mean We can Ask Jesus to do what we want**
 - Just so long as WE HAVE Faith He will do it!

- Absolutely NOT – In no way is this what this verse is saying
- Wiersbe; *“This promise of God’s answer to the prayer made in faith was made to disciples, not to the multitude. “Nor should we interpret Mark 11:24 to mean, ‘If you pray hard enough and really believe, God is obligated to answer your prayer no matter what you ask.’ That kind of faith is not faith in God; rather it is nothing but faith in faith, or faith in feelings.”*

▪ Context

- 1st Context with the rest of scripture is always critical
 - Taking one verse and making a theology is never a good idea
- 2nd Historical Context
 - “Mountain”
 - Was a popular figure of speech for any insurmountable problem
 - MacArthur; *“This expression was related to a common metaphor of that day, “rooter up of mountains,” which was used in Jewish literature of great rabbis and spiritual leaders who could solve difficult problems and seemingly do the impossible.”*
 - Jesus said that as we believe,
 - God can overcome any obstacle.
- 3rd Future

Revelation 6:14 (NKJV)

14 *Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place.*

Zechariah 14:4 (NKJV)

4 And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, From east to west, Making a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north And half of it toward the south.

▪ **Applications - God will move mountains.**

- Are you facing mountains today?
 - It might be a
 - Health issue
 - Finances
 - Relationship
 - Job
 - Remember

Psalm 97:5 (NKJV)

5 The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the LORD, At the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.

• **3rd Application - Keys to Answered Prayer**

- **1st His WILL**

1 John 5:14–15 (NKJV)

14 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

15 And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

- God is not a genie in a bottle who has to do whatever we ask Him to do.
- He is God Almighty. He is our Lord and Master.

- Illustration

- Even Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane

Luke 22:42 (NKJV)

42 saying, *“Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done.”*

- Remember – When your praying –

- It is very much okay to make YOUR Desire known to GOD

- BUT here the thing

- WE want HIS will

- **Ask yourself – ARE you smarter than God?!**

- So maybe what your praying for that you really want –

- BUT it is not God's Will –

- Remember - GOD'S will is SO MUCH BETTER

- **How do I know what God wants?**

- The best way is to be sure you read His letters to you (the Bible).

- **2nd Obedience**

- It's much easier to know how to ask according to His will when you are living according to His will

1 John 3:22–23 (NKJV)

22 And whatever we ask we receive from Him, **because we keep His commandments** and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.

23 *And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.*

- Confess SIN

Psalm 66:18 (NKJV)

18 *If I regard iniquity in my heart, The Lord will not hear.*

- **3rd Forgiveness**

- Receive His Forgiveness

1 John 1:9 (NKJV)

9 *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

- Forgive Others
 - We will talk about this a minute

- **4th Faith In God Believes In The Power Of His Word vs. 20-24**

- Believe in God POWER
- It's having faith in God, not in faith.
- Being confident in God. Trusting in God.

Faith In God Produces Forgiveness vs. 25-26

- **First: Forgiveness is a MUST vs. 25-26**

- **1st Whenever you stand praying v. 25**

Mark 11:25 (NKJV)

25 *“And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.*

- **1st And whenever you stand praying**
 - A lack of faith is not the only obstacle to effective prayer.

- Refusing to forgive or holding on to bitterness can also hinder our prayer.
- Sometimes a hard and unforgiving heart is bigger than any mountain.
- **If you have ANYTHING against anyone**
 - Please NOTE ANYTHING
 - This is wide and deep
 - It MEANS anything
 - We might say, I can forgive this sin – BUT that Sin no way
 - Well to do is SIN
- **2nd If you do not forgive v. 26**

Mark 11:26 (NKJV)

26 But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses."

- The forgiven heart will forgive others.
- If we have hard, unforgiving hearts, it calls into question if we have ever received or appreciated the forgiveness God offers us.
- *The Bible Knowledge Commentary; "Divine forgiveness toward a believer and a believer's forgiveness toward others are inseparably linked because a bond has been established between the divine Forgiver and the forgiven believer (cf. Matt. 18:21–35). One who has accepted God's forgiveness is expected to forgive others just as God has forgiven him (Eph. 4:32). If he does not, he forfeits God's forgiveness in his daily life.*

- **Second: Application on Forgiveness**

- **1st Forgiveness is a Command**

Colossians 3:13 (NKJV)

13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.

Luke 6:37 (NKJV)

37 “Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.

- As followers of Christ, we have been forgiven by God, and we are without exception called to give that which we have been given.

- **2nd Forgiveness is a Decision.**

- Our feelings are NOT to be trusted.
 - They will never lead us toward forgiveness
- Forgiveness becomes a decision we must make
 - A decision to TRUST God – move forward

- **3rd Forgiveness is a Process.**

- The Feelings will not be there at first
- BUT once you take the stand on God’s Word and do what is RIGHT before God –
- God will Meeting

- **4th Forgiveness allows God to be the judge**

Romans 12:19–21 (NKJV)

19 Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord.

20 Therefore “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.”
21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

○ **5th Forgiveness is not reserved for more “acceptable” offenses.**

- Just as God forgives all sins
- We are called to forgive every offense committed against us regardless of how terrible it was.
- No sin is unforgivable.

○ **6th Forgiveness is Unconditional**

Luke 23:34 (NKJV)

34 Then Jesus said, “*Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.*”
And they divided His garments and cast lots.

- The other person does not need to seek our forgiveness before we forgive
- We forgive and move on

○ **7th A difference between FORGIVENESS and RECONCILIATION**

- Just as Jesus said Forgive them, they know not what they do
 - Jesus forgave before anyone sought to be forgiven
- BUT A case can be made that just with Jesus –
 - Yes He has already forgiven
 - BUT in order to be RECONCILED we must repent and receive His Forgiveness

Faith In God Understands His Authority vs. 27-33

- **First: Religious Leader Question Jesus’ Authority vs. 27-28**

- **1st As He was walking in the temple, the chief priests, the scribes... v. 27**

Mark 11:27 (NKJV)

27 *Then they came again to Jerusalem. And as He was walking in the temple, the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders came to Him.*

- These are the guys Jesus had upset the day before when He cleaned house in the Temple.
- These three groups of men are what the Sanhedrin was made up of.
 - The chief priests were not the high priests, but the leaders of the priests chosen to be in the Sanhedrin (Gill).
 - The scribes were the lawyers, not like on Law and Order, but these were the religious experts in the Law of Moses.
 - The elders were the secular leaders of the Jews.
 - Of these three groups, some would be Sadducees and others would be Pharisees.
- The idea is that a delegation from the Sanhedrin has shown up to put Jesus in His place.

- **2nd By what authority are You doing these things? V. 28**

Mark 11:28 (NKJV)

28 *And they said to Him, "By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority to do these things?"*

- Or, "Who do you think you are?"
- Jesus was extremely courageous by boldly entering Jerusalem

- Driving out the corrupt merchants from the temple courts.
- Now the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders wanted to know what right He had to do such things.

• **Second: Jesus Answers With a Question vs. 29-33**

- **1st I will also ask you one question: vs. 29-30**

Mark 11:29–30 (NKJV)

29 But Jesus answered and said to them, *“I also will ask you one question; then answer Me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things:*
30 *The baptism of John—was it from heaven or from men? Answer Me.”*

- Jesus is attempting to get these guys to answer their own question
- When Jesus asked them to answer the question regarding John the Baptist,
 - He was not evading their question.
 - If John really was from God
 - Then he was right about Jesus and Jesus was indeed the Messiah.
 - If what John said was true, then Jesus had all authority.

- **2nd We do not know vs. 31-33**

Mark 11:31–33 (NKJV)

31 And they reasoned among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ He will say, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’
32 But if we say, ‘From men’ ”—they feared the people, for all counted John to have been a prophet indeed.
33 So they answered and said to Jesus, “We do not know.” And Jesus answered and said to them, *“Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.”*

- **Their response to His question**

- Exposed the fact that these men were not sincere seekers of truth.
- They cared more about scoring rhetorical points in debate and in pleasing the crowds than in knowing the truth.

- **Application**

- The whole story is a vivid example of what happens to men who will not face the truth.
- They have to twist and wriggle away from the Truth
- This is NOT a Good place to
- Have Faith In God – Understand and Believes in His Authority and the Authority of His Words

Closing

- May we all grown in our faith in God

Communion

- First: Remember (Looking Back at what Jesus did)
- Second: Repent / Reflect (Looking Within) 1 Cor. 11:27-28
- Third: Rejoice (Looking Forward) 1 Cor. 11:26
- Fourth: Reconcile (Looking Around) 1 Cor. 11:29, 33-34

1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (NKJV)

23 *For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread;*
24 *and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."*

25 *In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."*

26 *For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.*