

Passion Week: Jesus and Authority Matthew 21:12 - 27

This Week's Principle:

Identify, Equip, and Empower Leaders (*Ephesians 4:11-12*): we will fulfill the command of Ephesians 4 to equip believers for ministry, empower them to be who God created them to be, and send them out to serve.

Scripture

¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,
Ephesians 4:11-12

Key Thought

Read Matthew 21:18-19. Mark mentions that the fig tree had leaves on it. Was the tree alive or dead? Is it reasonable to expect a live tree with green leaves to also be producing fruit? With all the people running around the Temple, did the Temple appear to be alive or dead? Did Jesus find fruit among the leaders of the Temple? How is the story of the fig tree tied to the cleansing of the Temple?

Introduction: What are some reasons why a person/family would go to church? What is the chief or key reason why Christians are to go to church?

1. Read Matthew 21:12-13. How is the picture of Jesus you see in verse 12 different than how many churches preach about Jesus today? Why is it difficult to see Jesus as being "confrontational" when it comes to sin?

Application: Read Ephesians 4:15. How does this verse help us confront sin and do it in a way that honors the Lord? Is everyone going to love you when you stand up for truth? Why or why not? (See John 3:19-21.)

2. Merchants' setup booths to sell animals to be used for sacrifices as part of worship, especially for those who had to travel a great distance, so there was a need being met by some of the merchants. Why do you think Jesus was upset about the money-changers if some of them were meeting a legitimate need? Jesus quotes Isaiah 56:7 to declare that God's house is to be a house of prayer.

Application: Is it possible to take a good thing (an important thing) for worship, and it become detrimental to worship? How do we keep the center of attention on Jesus instead of other distractions?

3. Read Matthew 21:14-16. What was the goal for Jesus in confronting the money-changers and leaders of the Temple? Did the leaders understand what Jesus was trying to do? Why couldn't the leaders "see" the truth about who Jesus is?

4. Read Matthew 21:18-19. Mark mentions that the fig tree had leaves on it. Was the tree alive or dead? Is it reasonable to expect a live tree with green leaves to also be producing fruit? With all the people running around the Temple, did the Temple appear to be alive or dead? Did Jesus find fruit among the leaders of the Temple? How is the story of the fig tree tied to the cleansing of the Temple?

5. Read Matthew 21:20-22. Were the disciples interested in why Jesus was able to curse the fig tree or how Jesus cursed the fig tree? Which question did Jesus' response address?

6. Look again at 21 & 22. Is Jesus saying we can choose to do whatever we want and God is obligated to do it if we have enough faith? Or, is Jesus saying that if our faith (and trust) is in Christ and what we ask for is in alignment with God's will, then what we ask God to do will take place? (John 14:13-14; John 15:16; John 16:23-24)

7. Is the authority to ask for God-sized things based on the Christian's ability to do it, or is Jesus empowering his people to ask based on Jesus' authority? How is this authority different than the authority of the money-changers?

8. Read Matthew 21:23-27. Were the chief priests and elders really wanting to learn where Jesus got his authority from? Why did Jesus ask them a question rather than just telling them "No"? What do we learn about the heart of these leaders in verses 25 & 26?

9. Read Matthew 7:6. How does this verse help us understand why Jesus didn't bother giving an answer to the chief priests' and leaders' questions?

Application: When we share the Gospel with another person is every question or objection legitimate? How do we figure out what questions are valid?

Vision, Mission, Values, & Principles

The Vision

Our vision is to see the fulfillment of the Great Commission through our lives, families, and ministries.

Matthew 28:18-20

The Mission

Our mission is to lead people to KNOW Christ, teach them to GROW in Christ, and equip them to SERVE Christ.

Colossians 2:6-7

Core Values

We value the TRUTH of God's Word, the LOVE of God's heart, and SERVICE in his kingdom

2 Timothy 3:16-17, Matthew 22:36-40, Matthew 23:11

A Disciple

A disciple is a person who has a personal relationship with Jesus, knows and obeys Jesus' commands, and intentionally makes other disciples for Christ.

Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 1:17; John 15:5-17

Core Principles for Family Groups

Abiding Relationship with Jesus (*John 15:4-7*): every group member will have a personal relationship with Jesus that transforms how they live their life.

Reach the Lost (*Luke 19:10; Matthew 28:18-20*): every member shares their faith with those who do not know Jesus and celebrates when a person makes a decision for Christ

Connect the Unconnected (*Hebrews 10:24-25*): every member is connected with Jesus and with the church. Each person is connected in an intentional relational environment for the purpose of becoming a disciple.

Chase the Strays (*Luke 15:4*): every Christian who has strayed from Christ will be valued, noticed, and pursued.

Shepherd Towards Maturity (*Colossians 1:28; 2 Cor. 3:18*): every person in our church is progressing in spiritual maturity and becoming more like Jesus Christ.

Identify, Equip, and Empower Leaders (*Ephesians 4:11-12*): we will fulfill the command of Ephesians 4 to equip believers for ministry, empower them to be who God created them to be, and send them out to serve.

Function as a Team (*John 17:21-23*): we will be unified as a group and as a church as commanded in John 17, and we will function and work as a team pursuing God's purposes.

Announcements

Find a Group

If you are not in a Bible study, you can find a listing of current groups on our website: familychurchpc.com and click on Family Groups.

Church Dinner Wednesday Night

For those who attend AWANA, Student Ministry, or a Bible study on campus Wednesday nights, we offer a dinner at 5:15 pm. This is a delicious family-friendly meal. The cost is \$2 per person or \$5 a family.

Baptism Easter Weekend

Any child, student, or adult who has received Christ and is ready to follow in Believer's Baptism is encouraged to be baptized at the Blind Pass Beach on Saturday April 19 or in one of our services on Easter Sunday April 20. You can participate in a group on Sunday, March 30 at 9:30 am in the Ministry Suite. Or, you can meet with a pastor to discuss baptism. Contact the office for more information.