

Kingdom Rising
“Stirring Things Up”

GETTING STARTED

ICE BREAKER: Tell about a time you needed access but were barred from entering.

KEY THOUGHT: ***Access to God is about to radically expand***

GETTING THE POINT

Read Mark 11:7-11

1. What is the significance of this dramatic welcome for Jesus?
2. Why do you think Mark tells us that He “looked around at everything” in the Temple?

Read Mark 11:12-21

3. How does the understanding that fig trees produce fruit *before* leaves explain Jesus’ curse?
4. What is the meaning of the “Markan sandwich”: fig tree / Temple upset / fig tree?
5. Read verses 22-25. How will prayer be more accessible after Jesus than it is in the Temple?

GETTING DEEPER

Read Isaiah 56:6-7

1. What do these words, written 800 years before Christ, say about God’s heart for all peoples?
2. How do Jesus’ actions in Mark 11 work to bring these words to fruition?

GETTING PERSONAL

1. What is surprising about Jesus’ Temple upset at the start of His Passion week? In what way was it an appropriate start?
2. Imagine you are a Gentile approaching the Temple and you encounter the “keep out on penalty of death” sign. How would you have felt? What would you have done?
3. Were Jesus’ actions in overturning the tables effective? Why or why not? What are His actions foreshadowing?
4. How does it make you feel toward Jesus that He valued you so much He was willing to give His own life to give you access to God?
5. How much do you value access to God in prayer? What would cause you to value it more?

PRAY...

that we will appreciate the access we have to God, and work for others to have access too.