

THE FINISH - Monday
Mark 11:12-19

This is the first sermon in our pre-Easter sermon series.

Do you have special plans for the Easter season?

Do you have any Easter traditions?

If you are familiar with the events surrounding Easter, are there any parts that you find confusing or challenging?

On his final Monday, Jesus used a fig tree, which had no figs, as a teaching tool. He warned against religion that prioritizes and emphasizes one's external actions and appearance while lacking any fruit or heart change.

When we speak of Christians having "fruit" what do you think that means?

Do you know people whose faith is "fruitful?" If so, tell us about them.

What role does the Holy Spirit have in helping us live fruitful lives?

What are some practical ways that we can put ourselves in places for the Holy Spirit to shape us and spiritually mature us?

On his final Monday, Jesus also challenged established, religious ways of doing things that excluded and overlooked the very people that God wanted to include.

Do the way that churches do things today sometimes put up obstacles that keep people, who do not know Jesus, from feeling welcome and being able to learn about Jesus?

Do you think that evangelistic techniques and strategies that have worked in the past are still effective in today's culture? If so, why? If not, what needs to change?

If people in today's culture are not likely to simply walk into an evangelical church - and do not even see the need to do so - what, if any, ways should evangelical churches (and people in those churches) respond/adjust?