



THE GOSPEL OF MARK

Seeing Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God



Part 28

“The Judgment of the Temple”

1-23-22

Introduction: Scrutinizing the Temple

- The Temple in Jerusalem was central to the religious life and identity of the Jewish people. It was recognized as the dwelling place of God among His people (1 Kings 8:10-11) and was therefore the place where prayers and petitions could be made to God and atonement for sins was accomplished through the sacrificial system. During the reign of Herod the Great, the temple was rebuilt and the courtyard greatly expanded. Following Jesus’ triumphal entry into the city of Jerusalem, He had entered the temple complex and “looked around at everything” (Mark 11:11).

“Mark’s use of the verb “to look around” does not refer to goggling at the sights but to scrutinizing something critically...Jesus enters the temple to inspect it as the Lord.” —David Garland, *A Theology of Mark’s Gospel*

Main Point: Jesus’ cursing of the fig tree and His _____ of the temple anticipated the sacrificial _____ of atonement that He had come to accomplish.

The Authority of Jesus Over the Temple—Mark 11:12-33

The Cursing of the Fig Tree (v. 12-14)

- As they journeyed from Bethany, He cursed a fig tree they came upon when He realized that it had no fruit.

Observations:

- This was the _____ of Jesus’ miraculous deeds recorded by Mark.
- The account emphasizes that Jesus did this in a manner in which the disciples could both see and _____ it.

OT Imagery

Figs and the fig tree imagery is found repeatedly in the OT. It is used in a positive sense of Israel when God first established them (“like the first fruit on a fig tree” - Hos. 9:10a). Most often, however, it is used in a negative sense, describing God’s judgment: in reference to Israel being unresponsive to the Word of the Lord and therefore unashamed of their sin (“When I would gather them, there are no...figs on the fig tree” —Jer. 8:13b) and of the loss of the godly from the nation, leaving only those who are evil (“there is no cluster to eat, no first-ripe fig that my soul desires” —Mic. 7:1b).

Key Point: Given the OT background, Jesus’ actions should be understood as an enacted _____.

The Judgement of the Temple (v. 15-19)

- The Lord then entered the temple complex and disrupted its activities while pronouncing judgment upon it.

Observations:

- Jesus’ actions were intended as a judgment upon the temple because of both the disregard for _____ worship and the financial oppression of the _____.

...he began to drive out those who sold and those who bought in the temple...

...he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons...

- His dual quotation from the OT served to _____ His actions.

Mark 11:17—*And he was teaching them and saying to them, “Is it not written, ‘MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL THE NATIONS’? But you have made it a DEN OF ROBBERS.”*

Isa. 56:7b—*...for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.*

⇒ In the wider context, the Lord calls His people be faithful because His salvation is to come to them (56:1-2) and He promises that even foreigners who “love the name of the Lord” can be His servants and are invited to worship Him at His temple (56:3-7) because He intends to gather worshipers from among both Israel and the gentiles (56:8).

Jer. 7:11a—*Has this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes?*

⇒ In the wider context, the prophet is called by God to go to the temple and call out against the men of Jerusalem who trust in the temple and its institutions so that they have right standing before the Lord (7:1-4). They do this in spite of their oppression of the poor and powerless (7:5-7) and their own personal sin and idolatry (7:8).

