

ASTONISHED

Seeing & Hearing the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Small Group Questions — The Week of July 18, 2021

Sermon Overview: Imagine studying history and Alexander the Great walks through the door...or sitting in science class and Albert Einstein shows up...or shopping in the Apple Store and Steve Jobs appears. These would be astonishing moments in the presence of such authoritative figures. But these hypotheticals pale in comparison to the reality of Jesus Christ arriving in Jerusalem nearly 2,000 years ago. In Mark 11, we witness the astonishing authority of Jesus Christ. In His cursing of the fig tree, cleansing of the temple, and confrontation with the religious leaders, we see His unrivaled authority as Prophet, Priest, and King. He rebukes pride, hypocrisy, and fruitless religion, and He calls us to a faith that rests in His gracious authority. Join us on Sunday as we consider who Jesus is and what He came to do.

Scripture Reading: Mark 11:11-33

1. Discuss the significance of Jesus being Prophet, Priest, and King. (See the Profession of Faith from the bulletin and also Hebrews 1:1-3; Hebrews 10:11-14; Matthew 28:18-20.)
2. How do we see the authority of Christ in the cursing of the fig tree and the cleansing of the temple? How are these two episodes related?
3. What did Jesus expect to see in the fig tree? What did He expect to see in Israel? What does He expect to see in our lives? Why should the Lord have this expectation?
4. What is hypocrisy? How do you see it in the temple scene and in the religious leaders? How do you see it in your life?
5. Jesus says, "Have faith in God." What does this mean for us, especially in contrast to the fig tree and the temple?
6. What does Jesus teach us about prayer? How do other passages help us understand what He means (and what He doesn't)? (See Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 22:42; John 15:5-9.)
7. How does Jesus' question about John the Baptist trap the Pharisees? How does John the Baptist point to Jesus' authority as the King?
8. How is the Lord calling us to respond to His astonishing authority?