BCM Bible Study— Oct. 20/21, 2021

Mark 11:12-12:12

**Read Mark 11:12-12:12**

* **After reading these passages of scripture, what are your initial thoughts?**
* **What is the significance of how Mark 11:12-26 is structured (A fig tree sandwich)? Why do you think Luke chose to place the story of the temple between the parable of the fig tree?**

**Mark 11: 12-19**

* **Can you think of a time when you might have tried to put on the outward appearance of being spiritually fruitful, but in reality you were spiritually bare? If so, please share.**
  + **How did Jesus reveal to you, your spiritual fruitlessness? What “tables” in your life did he flip? What sin did he cause to wither away?**
* **Are there any areas currently in your life that you might be putting on the outward appearance of fruitfulness? How is God revealing those to you?**

Now, let’s dive deeper into the lesson from the fig tree (11:20-25).

* **How is this lesson from the fig tree relevant to what was happening in the temple and with the Jewish people overall?**
* **What does this passage tell us we should do in prayer?**
* **How does verse 24 fit into what this passage is saying as a whole? How does looking at it alone, versus in the context of the entire passage, change it’s meaning?**
* **Compare how this passage says we should approach prayer, to how you often approach prayer.** 
  + Where in prayer do you tend to be most doubtful?
  + What focus do you have in prayer? (self focused, focused on others, or God focused)
* **How can you plan to apply verses 20-25 to your own prayer life?**
* **How can prayer be a tool to increase our spiritual fruitfulness? Why is it important for our spiritual health?**

**Mark 11:27-12:12**

* **Why do you think Jesus chose to share this parable with the chief priests instead of directly answering their question?**
* **What are your initial thoughts on this parable?** 
  + **What is Jesus trying to say to the spiritual leaders through this parable?**
* **In what ways are you like the tenants of this parable?**
* **How can you change your attitude from one of…**
  + **Anger to one of Love?**
  + **Jealousy and covetousness to one of contentment?**
  + **rebellion to one submission?**
* **How can you be a better “tenant” of God’s will and provisions in your life?**
* **Reflecting back to the questions about the parable of the fig tree, as a believer in Christ, what spiritual fruit are you producing? What fruit are you lacking?**

**Extra Notes and Questions**

**Contrast Mark 11:12-26 with Matthew 21:18-22**

* **Compare and contrast each account. In what ways are they similar? What do they both point out? How are they different?**
* **How might these similarities and differences be important when studying scripture?**