

HAVE FAITH IN GOD

Joseph Prince video – “What really happened at the cross”

Today I want to talk about four of the most meaningful words ever spoken by Jesus

- Perhaps only second to... IT IS FINISHED...

Mark 11:22...Have faith in God

- remember what this meant the very first time He said it

The law and all its binding regulations were squeezing the life out of people. For proper context we have to look at the last week of Jesus' life

Just a day or two before Jesus enters Jerusalem to shouts of Hosanna...

- On the heels of what many would call the greatest miracle he performed up to that time, raising _____ from the _____.

This sets Him on a course of events over the next week that would forever change the landscape of how **God relates to man**. As he was riding into the city to all the praise... Jesus begins to weep over the people of Jerusalem

Luke 19:41-Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, 42 saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.... because you did not know the time of **your visitation**." NKJV

I have come to bring you a **new way to relate to God** and a new way to relate to each other

- A new way to relate to sin and forgiveness... **A new and living way**
- **But you have said no**
 - The people he was sent to were rejecting Him and His offer...going back to _____ for their eternal hope...

About the law

Gal 3:10 - Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law." 11 Clearly no one is justified before God by the law,... NKJV

Col 2:13-15 - He forgave us all our sins, 14 having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. NIV

Rom 10:4 – Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes. NIV

- Message of Jesus... Out with the Old and in with the New- Have faith in God!!

So now in His last week he amplifies the message of ... Faith in God....with a series of illustrations and statements.

- Culminating in the communal meal... this is the new covenant in my blood

This week His last week

He enters the temple and cleanses it... casting out those who sold sacrificial animals

Mark 11:17 ... My house will be a house of prayer for all nations NKJV

What's the message.... "Out with the _____ in with the _____" - Have faith in God!!

In that same week ...he walks around the temple... a place the Jews literally worshipped and says, "**Your house is left to you desolate.**"

TCC- Jesus temple... is the hearts of men....Built together into a spiritual house...Each person a living stone

- Physical temple will never again hold His presence
 - **Jesus left that Temple and never returned to that temple**

Mark 11:12-17 -Now the **next day**, when they had come out from Bethany, He was hungry. 13 And seeing from afar a fig tree having leaves, He went to see if perhaps He would find something on it. When He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. 14 In response Jesus said to it, "Let no one eat fruit from you ever again." NKJV

TCC- Is he really talking about one tree?

Q Why curse a tree?

Throughout scripture Israel is depicted pictorially as the fig tree- In this case Jesus is not talking about the Jewish people but their reliance on the law..... law out of season

Jesus Explained Fig Tree

Luke 13:6-9 -Then he told this parable: "**A man** (God) had a fig tree, (Israel) planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it, but did not find any...7 So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, '**For three years now I've been coming** to look for fruit on this fig tree and ...haven't found any. **Cut it down!** Why should it use up the soil?' 8 "'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for **one more year**, and I'll dig around it and fertilize it. 9 If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then **cut it down.**'" NKJV

- Jesus Christ had a 3½ year ministry ... seeing no fruit in peoples reliance in the law... no fruit

John the Baptist said it this way when the Jewish leaders challenged Him with this same thing

Matt 3:9-10 -We have Abraham as our father.' For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. 10 And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. NKJV

TCC- ...national pride does not equal a living relationship with God... they thought being Jewish alone would get them to heaven

The Next Day

Mark 11:20-24 - Now in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. 21 And Peter, remembering, said to Him, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree which You cursed has withered away."

- Withered away: Symbol of the failed law... which could never forgive sin

Without hesitation- 22 So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God.

23 For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. 24 Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them. NKJV

Access.... God is available

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Q** What does it mean to "have" faith in God?
- Q** What does it mean to you that Christ is the end of the law?
- Q** How do you personally walk in freedom of not being under the law?