



"HAVE FAITH IN GOD"

MARK 11:12-25

A problematic passage;

A problematic perspective of the Savior;

The uniqueness of the incidents;

—The Temple—

Differing views of Jesus' purpose and intended result?;

The key question: Why would Jesus want to cleanse or reform something He has declared and will declare again will be destroyed?;

MARK 13:2

² And Jesus said to him, "Do you see these great buildings? *There will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.*"

MARK 2:22

²² And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. If he does, the wine will burst the skins—and the wine is destroyed, and so are the skins. But new wine is for fresh wineskins."

Jesus is the Great Prophet;

DEUTERONOMY 18:18

¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.

Jesus' destructive actions are directed at three objects;

Actions speak loudly, but words speak precisely

Isaiah: The Temple and all it represented was never meant as Israel's exclusively;

ISAIAH 56:3-8

³ Let not the foreigner who has joined himself to the LORD say, "The LORD will surely separate me from his people"; and let not the eunuch say, "Behold, I am a dry tree." ⁴ For thus says the LORD: "To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths, who choose the things that please me and hold fast my covenant, ⁵ I will give in my house and within my walls a monument and a name better than sons and daughters; I will give them an everlasting name that shall not be cut off. ⁶ "And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, everyone who keeps the Sabbath and does not profane it, and holds fast my covenant— ⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; *for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.*" ⁸ The Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares, "I will gather yet others to him besides those already gathered."

Jeremiah: The Temple and what it represents is perverted when it is thought of as a refuge for the sinner who clings to his own righteousness;

JEREMIAH 7:1–15

³ Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Amend your ways and your deeds, and I will let you dwell in this place. ⁴ *Do not trust in these deceptive words: ‘This is the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD.’* ⁵ “For if you truly amend your ways and your deeds, if you truly execute justice one with another, ⁶ *if you do not oppress the sojourner, the fatherless, or the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not go after other gods to your own harm,* ⁷ *then I will let you dwell in this place, in the land that I gave of old to your fathers forever.* ⁸ “Behold, you trust in deceptive words to no avail. ⁹ Will you steal, murder, commit adultery, swear falsely, make offerings to Baal, and go after other gods that you have not known, ¹⁰ *and then come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, ‘We are delivered!’—only to go on doing all these abominations?* ¹¹ *Has this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes?* Behold, I myself have seen it, declares the LORD. ¹² *Go now to my place that was in Shiloh, where I made my name dwell at first, and see what I did to it because of the evil of my people Israel.* ¹³ And now, because you have done all these things, declares the LORD, and when I spoke to you persistently you did not listen, and when I called you, you did not answer, ¹⁴ *therefore I will do to the house that is called by my name, and in which you trust, and to the place that I gave to you and to your fathers, as I did to Shiloh.* ¹⁵ And I will cast you out of my sight, as I cast out all your kinsmen, all the offspring of Ephraim.

Jesus has declared—and the people have heard the declaration—in both Jerusalem and Galilee, that the broken system of works righteousness must pass away;

MARK 1:22

²² *And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes.*

—The Tree—

Jesus is “acting out” the sinner who is “hungry” for the righteousness of God;

MATTHEW 5:6

⁶ *“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.*

Fig leaves;

GENESIS 3:7

⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. *And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.*

The curse upon the tree;

MARK 13:2

² And Jesus said to him, *“Do you see these great buildings? There will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.”*

Death from the roots up;

MARK 15:38

³⁸ And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, *from top to bottom.*

—The Explanation—

Characteristics of the New Kingdom;

1. Faith characterizes the disciple
2. Faith will displace the old, broken system of works righteousness
3. Disciples will have direct access to God through faith
4. Disciples will be characterized by forgiveness received and given

The biblical imagery: mountains and sea;

JOHN 4:21

²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when *neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father...*"

MICAH 4:1 (See also Isaiah 2:2-3)

¹ It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of *the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and it shall be lifted up above the hills; and peoples shall flow to it.*

MARK 5:13

¹³ So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the pigs; and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank *into the sea* and drowned in the sea.

MARK 9:42

⁴² "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were hung around his neck and *he were thrown into the sea.*

The Temple and its perverted system of man-centered works righteousness will never again be seen as the place to go to meet with God. The kingdom is now God's people redeemed by faith.

1 CORINTHIANS 3:16-17

¹⁶ Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? ¹⁷ If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:27

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

2 CORINTHIANS 6:16

¹⁶ ...we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

EPHESIANS 2:22

²² In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

1 PETER 2:4-5

⁴ As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵ *you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*