

COMMENT PAGE  
TRINITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
IHOP BIBLE STUDY  
July 2003  
The Topic: Mark 11:1 – 33 “The Ripeness of time.”

This is the ninth session in this series on Mark. On the Gospel of Mark chart (available to you on line), we begin a new section on “The Kairotic Moment.” This part is titled “The Ripeness of Time.”

- I. Read through the whole 11<sup>th</sup> chapter in one reading.
- II. After reading over this chapter, explain how this material could be “The Ripeness of Time?” What is the significance of the “kairotic moment.?”

The difference is that between "chonos" and "kairos." Chonos is associated with the chronometer or the ticking of the clock. Kairos is associated with the word "chaos," or the inbreaking of something new. The time surrounding Jesus is a chaotic time. History itself divides between B.C.E (Before the Common Era) and C.E. (the Common Era.) These terms replace the old B.C. (before Christ) and A.D. (Anno Domini-- after the death and resurrection.)

- III. 11: 1 – 11 This is the traditional “Palm Sunday” activity. Turn back into the Hebrew Testament to the Psalms. Read over Psalm 118: 25, 26. Speculate on why this Psalm was used. Please take these Old Code Words and run them through your human experience: (reference here is NIV)

“Blessed” Literally "happy." (See The Beatitudes in Matthew)

“Name of the Lord” In the context of Perfect At-One-Ment

“kingdom of our father David!” In the tradition of our moms and pops of profound surrender.

- IV. Vss. 12 – 19 Jesus Clears the Temple  
Start with vss 12 – 14 the “cursing of the fig tree.” What is the Fig Tree? Avoid making this a “head trip.”

This is one of the "hard sayings." The lesson is to be prepared for Jesus. When Jesus is around, it is a time for "bearing figs." This has nothing to do with the weather, or the season. It has to do with Jesus being present, and Jesus is always present within us.

This is why we need to fully stop at stop signs: Stop for Jesus! This is why every meeting must be immaculately set and ready: Prep for Jesus.

Vss. 15 – 19 What is the significance of the statement “a den of robbers?” In the way the Jews were treating the temple, what were they robbing the people? (Be careful to avoid “head trip” stuff.

Greed robs the people of their wholesome living. The intended purpose of the Temple was to be a House of Prayer. (Doing things to enhance being fully human. People are robbed of their authentic relationship to God, Self and Neighbor.

Why did these things upset the chief priests and the teachers of the law?

**These things upset the Jewish leaders because they believed they were already in an authentic relationship with God.**

**V. Vss. 20 – 26 This section is traditionally called “The Withered Fig Tree.” A better title might be “The dynamics of faith and prayer.”**

**Concerning “faith” as an Old Christian Code Word, be sure you understand the “gut trip” dynamics of this word.**

**Faith is betting your life, or surrendering your life to the Meaning of Things. It is taking the Leap of Faith, and trusting that God "really will take care of you. . . "**

**How does Jesus use define the use of prayer in this section? (vss 22- 26)**

**"Prayer" is on the "DOING POLE" in the Individual Journey Charts. Consequently, much of what we traditionally consider as prayer is either Meditation or Contemplation. Prayer is an ACT! However, the intensification of Prayer can make you fall into Contemplation. This happens when we are so deeply engaged in our DOING that we become oblivious to everything else.**

**VI. Vss. 27 – 33 Questioning the authority of Jesus**

**How would you answer the question of the chief priests concerning where Jesus gets his authority. Where does Jesus get his authority? (Oh, please be careful to avoid “heat trip analysis.”**