



Life Group Notes: "More than meets the eye"

Tuesday 3rd March 2020

READ THESE VERSES TOGETHER

▪ MARK: 11:12-14 & 20-24

12 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."

And His disciples heard it.

20 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." 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."

DISCUSSION POINTS

- 1) Jesus is teaching on prayer and the story of the cursed fig tree shows that Jesus does not want us to be spiritually barren (not producing fruits for God). Using this instance to talk on prayer in (v23), Jesus highlights that "green leaves" are not enough! His followers need more than meets the eye to be effective in their prayers.
 - Please, discuss why faith (v22), absence of doubt and belief (v23) are key ingredients to prayer?
- 2) Pastor Phil said, *"Sometimes Jesus challenges us but we try and kill His voice because we don't like what God shows it says to us"*. In Mark 11 v15, Jesus enters the temple to challenge some people, who despite being in the temple, had their focus elsewhere.
 - Discuss why Christians should expect and value the challenge of the Holy Spirit in their lives.
- 3) How can prayer and closeness with God help us avoid the silent killers (hidden sins, held offences, performance/willingness to be praised by men, bad habits, distractions...etc)? Please, discuss.

PRAYER SUGGESTIONS:

- Pray that we learn to identify hinderances to our prayer life and deal with this effectively.
- Pray that we allow the Holy Spirit to challenge us on anything that does not glorify God in our life and that we will have the ability and strength to surrender all to Him.