

Deep and Wide: Vision casting

Week Two – Group questions

- A. What impacted you or invited you to reflect from the Bible message, today? Mark 10 and 11.
- B. **Jesus' encounter with the donkey (Mark 11:1-11):**
- (a) Jesus said of the donkey: *"I have need of it."* **Is it the donkey itself that which the Master "needs" or expects to use?** Or is it the response of all involved that Jesus expects? What kind of response do you see of each one involved? Could you put it in one word?
 - (b) **What does the remarkable focus on the donkey tell us**, even in the prophetic context of Jesus Christ riding into Jerusalem on that donkey? What could each step in this Scripture suggest for us as a church and for each of us called by the Lord to serve Him? The donkey was **sent for, set free, sat on, served of**, and then **sent back** by the Master?
 - (c) **How does the donkey in Mark 11 illustrate in specific ways** the teaching of Jesus in Mark 10:35-45? How does Jesus' teaching to the disciples take it one big step further?

What does Jesus' own comparison of how He serves and will serve on the Cross suggest how we are called to serve? Is it really possible for us to serve on the Calvary road as Jesus serves? Is willingness and obedience enough on the Calvary road of the Christian life?
 - (d) **Invite one person to read Philippians 2:1-11.** What points or verses do you find that echo what Jesus told his disciples in Mark 10:43-45? How? Notice the emphasis on willingness and readiness to obey the Word of God in Philippians 2 verse 12.
- C. **Jesus' encounter with the fig tree (Mark 11:12-14, 20-24):**
- (a) **Before returning to Mark 11, consider again how – in Mark 10:44-45 –** Jesus compares His way of serving on the Calvary road with His call on us to serve. Is it really possible for us to follow His example by simply willing or obeying? What else does obedience require besides just willing?
 - (b) **Coming to Jesus' dealing with the fig tree**, we can very naturally think that His expectation of that tree was not at all reasonable. But, when we jump ahead to verses 20-24, it is obvious He is teaching us perhaps the most important lesson of the Christian life.
 - (c) **No sap, no fruit. No faith, no works.** Or, as we read in Romans 8 and in other Scriptures of the NT, faith is a gift of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, since the Holy Spirit has come to dwell in each of us, He has not withheld His gift of faith. What do you have, now? **What did the Blind Man have** in Mark 10:46-52?
 - (d) **If we have the "sap" of the Holy Spirit, we also have His gift of faith.** None of us should live as if we lack faith. How does this radically change the call of God to obedience? Philippians 4:13.
 - (e) **An Alliance national leader, Dr. Keith Bailey, used to say, "We do not need a new revival. We need the revival we already have."** His point was that, yes, we can and should pray for another great spiritual revival movement of God; but, in the meantime, we are already indwelt by the Person and the power of the Holy Spirit of God.
 - (f) **Our faith may be as small as "a mustard seed"**, as Jesus taught, but when our Lord of lords and King of kings calls us to catch His vision for our lives and to obey His call, we already have the deep spring well of faith to lift a foot and to take a step, and obey.
- D. **The illustrations of the donkey and the fig tree** can perhaps remind us of a song we sang as kids in Sunday school: *"Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus" Faith and obedience.*

Six gates and courts of prayer for a week with our First Alliance Church family

MONDAY: Enter the prayer presence of God with thanksgiving and praise

- (1) → ASK GOD that His Word given on Sunday would continue to dwell and to grow richly, with much fruit, in each of our lives.
- (2) → ASK GOD to daily empower and protect our pastors, other staff workers, worship leaders, singers, musicians and their families.
- (3) → ASK GOD to powerfully anoint and prepare them for the ministries of next Sunday.

THURSDAY: Enter the prayer presence of God with thanksgiving and praise

- (10) → ASK GOD to grow our love for and care of one another, and our unity in Christ
- (11) → ASK GOD to more and more mature and grow our marriages in love "submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ" (Eph. 5:21).
- (12) → ASK GOD for daily "divine appointments" and personal ways to share God's love and the good news of Jesus Christ.

TUESDAY: Enter the prayer presence of God with thanksgiving and praise

- (4) → ASK GOD to draw young people and other children to Christ. Pray for parents and families.
- (5) → ASK GOD to build up our Sunday classes and ministries in the knowledge of God, and to bless our teachers, helpers and their families.
- (6) → ASK GOD to call and equip new workers for these and other harvest fields in our church. Ask God especially for workers with young children.

FRIDAY Enter the prayer presence of God with thanksgiving and praise

- (13) → ASK GOD to build up His church in Lexington as His Spirit convicts men and women of their need for the Lord Jesus Christ, their Savior from the guilt and destruction of sin.
- (14) → ASK GOD to daily enable us to be praying people, and good news people.
- (15) → ASK GOD to protect and empower district church planters and our missionaries.

WEDNESDAY: Enter the prayer presence of God with thanksgiving and praise

- (7) → ASK GOD to build up each home LIFE group in faithful commitment to one another in prayer and in sharing our lives with each other
- (8) → ASK GOD to empower and protect our LIFE group leaders and their families
- (9) → ASK GOD to show our LIFE groups ways and means to be and to share the good news of Christ.

SATURDAY Enter the prayer presence of God with thanksgiving and praise

- (16) → ASK GOD to give wisdom and discernment to our pastors and other elders and leaders.
- (17) → ASK GOD to give them answers to prayer as they intercede for needs, including for healing and encouragement in our church family.
- (18) → ASK GOD for His work of spiritual revival as we come monthly together for corporate prayer, and as we pray in daily "quiet times".

jot down ... other prayer notes ... on the next page →