



SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM
FOR THE SERMON PREACHED: Oct. 1, 2017
"Beware of Broken Religion"
PASSAGE: Mark 11:12-33

1. Read Mark 11:12-33 out loud in your group.
 - a. In the immediate context we notice how Jesus entered the temple looked around at everything, and the following day returned to cleanse the temple. What is the connection between the temple accounts and the fig tree account in verses 12-14? Give examples of how our faith can be viewed from a distance without others really knowing who we really are. What questions can we ask ourselves and others to take a closer look at our faith? It was not the season for figs, then why did Jesus still curse the tree though it looked good from a distance. In what ways does this show an urgency to take closer looks at your faith? What is one area you need to inspect?

 - b. In verse 22 we read that the fig tree had withered. This is a powerful symbol of what broken religion really looks like. In verses 23-25 Jesus goes on to talk about faith, prayer, and forgiveness. In the temple, what specific obstacles hindered fruit in these three areas? Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. How are our bodies described, and what is the resulting call to action? The temple was the place where God's presence resided; where people experienced the power and presence of God. What obstacles are hindering fruit in your life in faith, prayer, and forgiveness these areas and how will you "cleanse the temple" and remove the obstacles?

 - c. Read 2 Corinthians 3:12-18. What is the analogy being made in this passage? If we are to be a church who removes the veil, and all obstacles to people experiencing the power and presence of God... according to this passage, what is the greatest obstacle? How do we continue to be an obstacle free church?

d. Read John 15:5-11. What does it mean to abide? The fruit of your life will expose the authority in your life. (ie. a life controlled by a desire for approval, comfort, pleasure, control, safety... etc.) Why is the search for false authorities in our life absolutely vital to guarding our lives against broken religion? What is your #1 false authority in your life, and how will you abide in Christ and not in that?

e. BREAKOUT

As you pursue to grow as a disciple of Christ as a Small Group member... consider your top 2 obstacles to that growth, how you will remove them and pursue the Lord? (ie. completing homework, arriving on time, praying out loud, reading out loud, confessing sin, consistent accountability, courage to confront sin, memorizing scripture, words of encouragement, serving in group... etc.)

Memory Verse

2 Corinthians 3:18 “And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.”