



Part 3: An Act of Self-Defence?

INTRODUCTION – Jesus Christ Scandal Star

John 11:47-48, 57

Messianic Mixed Messages – The (Un)Triumphal Entry

Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-10; Luke 19:29-44; John 12:12-19

Zechariah 9:9-10

TAKE OUT:

The Kingdom of Christ is advanced through _____.

(Meekness is not _____, but _____ under control.)

Matthew 5:5; Galatians 5:23; Colossians 3:12

The Temple Tantrum – A Prophetic Judgement

Matthew 21:12-16; Mark 11:15-18; Luke 19:45-48; John 2:13-21

With the Pharisees Jesus asserted his authority over their _____ and the _____. Now with the Sadducees Jesus asserts his authority over the _____ and its system.

Zechariah 14:21; 1 Timothy 2:5

TAKE OUT:

Jesus represents God to us (_____) and us to God (_____).

He is everything we need to _____ God and everything we need to _____ with God.

CONCLUSION – Being A Part Of Something Bigger

John 2:18-21; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS...

WARMING UP...

1. After briefly reviewing this week's message, share one thing that most challenged, convicted, or encouraged you.
2. Explore and discuss your thoughts about this quote by Gail R. O'Day: "All religious institutional embeddedness – whether in the form of temple worship, unjust social systems, or repressive religious practices – is challenged by the revelation of God in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus."

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

3. What's with the fig tree? Read about Jesus' most unusual interaction with a plant in Matthew 21:18-22. a) Knowing that fruit & vines could be symbolic of Israel (see Hosea 9:10, 16), and that Jesus often (usually?) teaches through the use of symbolism, metaphor, and visual imagery, what might be the point of this unusual demonstration of destructive supernatural power? b) How does Matthew 3:10; 7:15-23; & 21:43 enhance our understanding of the possible meaning of this event? c) How is religious legalism like a barren fig tree or an obstructive mountain?
4. Read John 15:1-11. a) How can we best "abide" (NASB) in Christ? b) What results can we expect in our lives as we abide in the Vine? c) How does God "prune" us in our everyday lives? d) Why should this message from Jesus lead to increased "joy"?

SO WHAT?...

5. Read Galatians 5:22-23. a) What fruit are you most barren of? b) What is one thing you could do this week to grow in that area? c) Pray for each other in light of this.

Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, April 13, 2003