

STUDY NOTES

THE WAY AND THE WORDS OF JESUS A SERIES *at* NEW CITY CHURCH

www.newcityphx.com/sermons

The following content is based on the message “Faith that Moves Mountains” on 3/25/18 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this Study Guide effectively you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these study notes for group study and reflection should read the Biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

PRAYER

Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.

SCRIPTURE: MARK 11:20-24

HOW DOES THE TEMPLE RELATE TO FIGS?

What was this act of cursing the fig tree? Was Jesus losing his temper? No. Jesus was illustrating an underlying point. Israel, like the fig tree, appeared to be thriving; but the appearances were deceiving because Israel and the fig tree were bearing no fruit. **Read Mark 11:15-17.** The magnificence of the temple masked the corruption and false security associated with it. Just as the fig tree was cursed and withered, so Israel was about to be condemned and decline in importance.

- *At this point in Jesus’s ministry, he has about a week left before going to the cross. Why do you think Jesus is responding strongly now?*
- *In what ways could people look at Christians as thriving, yet their works are bearing no true fruit? How is this type of religion so dangerous?*
- *How could someone look at your life as thriving, yet your works are bearing no fruit?*

FAITH THAT MOVES MOUNTAINS

When Jesus talks about a faith that moves mountains, he drawing up an allusion that is most likely the temple mount. Faith in God makes the temple system obsolete (Jn 4:19–24). It was believed there could be no Judaism without the temple. Therefore for Jesus to expel the actions happening in the temple was to metaphorically cast them into the sea, meaning that he considered the works happening in the temple to be evil. The center of prayer would no longer be the temple mount but through faith in Jesus.

A righteous and effective prayer only happens through faith in Jesus.

- *Have people told you that your unanswered prayer was because you didn’t have enough faith? If so, share your experience.*

ASKING IN PRAYER

To pray like Jesus calls us to pray means we should turn to his model of prayer. **Read Matthew 6:7-15.**

In the model for prayer, we find these elements:

- prayer glorifying to God
 - prayer asking for God’s will
 - prayer seeking daily bread
 - prayer to forgive others
- *What elements of Jesus’s prayer do you need to start incorporating into your prayer life?*
 - *How can you ask God for requests like a child asks a parent for something?*
 - *If God answers your request with a “no”, what does it feel like to be in company with Jesus who was also answered with a “no”.*
 - *Pray the Lord’s Prayer with each other.*