

Does my religion inhibit the gospel?

Mark 11:11-25

Read Mark 11:11-25.

Warm up

What was your take-away from Sunday's sermon? Is there anything jumping out at you as interesting from the passage?

Observe and Interpret

1. What do Jesus and his disciples observe when they enter the temple? (hint: Jesus entered the Court of the Gentiles)
2. What is the link between the condition of the fig tree and the condition of temple worship which Jesus observes?
3. On reaching Jerusalem, what is Jesus' reaction to the situation when he enters the temple courts?
4. How should the temple have been functioning? Why is Jesus passionate about the temple being restored?
5. How does Jesus' reaction reveal his identity? (see Malachi 3:1-5)
6. The story of Jesus clearing the temple is sandwiched between the two halves of the fig tree story. What does the story of the fig tree demonstrate will happen to Israel? (remember Malachi)
7. Verses 21-22 shows that Jesus' prayer has been answered. What do verses 23-25 teach us about the 'conditions' of answered prayer?

Application

8. Do you share Jesus' passion that the nations would come to God in worship?
9. How might our 'religious behaviour' inhibit people coming to God in worship?
10. Is our religion for ourselves, or do we share Jesus' concern for others?