

# Fig Monday

Mark 11.12-25

*focus: to present Christ as the humble King who violently opposes hypocrisy and calls us to faithful prayer and forgiveness instead.*

## RESOURCES:

I found John Piper's brief sermon notes very helpful again this week:

[http://  
www.desiringgod.org/messages/  
what-do-answers-to-prayer-  
depend-on-part-2](http://www.desiringgod.org/messages/what-do-answers-to-prayer-depend-on-part-2)

and here is the video related to the Amish example of forgiveness:

[http://www.pbs.org/wnet/  
religionandethics/2016/07/01/  
amish-grace/31243/](http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/2016/07/01/amish-grace/31243/)



## 2017 Annual Priority:

*To embrace & exalt Christ as most worthy in our lives, that we might: know Him truly, Love Him supremely, obey Him faithfully, and share Him gladly*

## Discussion:

- Read the passage aloud. How is this story out of sync with many preconceptions of Jesus?
- Share what this passage teaches you about Jesus. Make a list together of your insights.
- What is the purpose of Jesus cursing the fig tree and assaulting the temple merchants? How are those two symbols related?
- What is at the heart of Jesus' violent actions in both these symbols? Why does he take such severe action?
- How could our attitudes towards church mirror the Jews' attitude towards the temple? i.e. how can church become "prayerless" and "a den of robbers"?
- in verses 20-25, Jesus teaches them about prayer and forgiveness. How does that counter what he was teaching against about the temple?
- How do Jesus' teachings on forgiveness and prayer challenge you personally? What actions can you take to be less hypocritical in these areas? You may want to use the Amish video link in the resources column to provoke this discussion of forgiveness.