

Figs, Faith and Our Future

“Case For Christ”, part 38, Insights from Mark 11:12-25
Pastor Bob Johnson, October 16th, 2022, GPC

Figs & Pharisees

(Mark 11:12-19, Genesis 12:2-3, Isaiah 49:6, Luke 19:41-44)

Faith & Forgiving

(Mark 11:20-26 John 15:7, 1 John 5:14)

Future Judgment:

1. Our judge and defense will be ...

(John 5:21-22, 1 John 2:1-2)

2. Christ followers will ...

- **be spared from S** _____
(Romans 8:1-2)

- **not be spared from S** _____
(1 Corinthians 3:11-15, 2 Corinthians 5:10, John 19:13-16)

3. We will all be judged by our F

not our T _____ **or T** _____.
(James 2:19-20, 2 Corinthians 5:10)

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This Week's Discussion Guide

Welcome to our eighth week of our Fall Small Group Season at GPC! Our study and discussion this fall will be based on our current Sunday series at GPC called, "Case For Christ".

In this series, we are slowly unpacking the Gospel of Mark. Each week we will read and reflect on a passage from Mark's gospel and discuss ways we can apply what we reflect on to our daily lives.

It is our prayer at GPC for our Sundays and small groups to provide the encouragement we all need to support each other as we desire to grow closer to God and build friendships as part of our vision at GPC to raise up committed Christ followers in a healthy church community.

Getting Started:

Each week, we typically start out with a few lighter questions to get us warmed up :).

In Mark 11:12-14 we see Jesus getting upset with a fig tree. Speaking of fruit ... what is your favorite? How about vegetables? Do you have a favorite?

What was one vegetable you were encouraged to eat but was something you would have rather avoided?

In Mark 11:12-25, Jesus speaks of the coming judgment that will fall on Jerusalem. Using this passage, Bob talked about the possibility of rewards and regrets that we will experience in our final judgment.

Speaking of rewards, looking back, what was a reward or type of recognition that you received that was a positive experience for you?

Regarding regrets, we all have some. What is a regret that you have regarding a choice you did or didn't do growing up or more recently?

What is something you feel God has been prompting you to do that if you don't get around to doing it, will lead to some regret later on?

Reviewing and Reflecting on last Sunday's Passage:

Let's read the main passage from last Sunday. (Mark 11:12-25)

After reading this passage and looking back on our notes from Sunday, was there a particular thought, verse or comment that caught your attention, challenged you or raised a question for you?

Digging Deeper:

1. Talking about God's judgment is not an easy conversation. Yet, last Sunday we were given some insight in how God's judgment actually helps us know what it means to follow him.

The ultimate good news is that as a follower of Jesus, we are saved by grace. Our salvation is secure. Let's read through Ephesians 2:1-10 and share some insights about God's grace, judgment, and how the Holy Spirit works in the life of a Christ follower.

2. Last Sunday we learned that judgment (our final audit when we die or when Jesus comes back) will actually be a time of reward and regret.

The rewards we receive and the regrets we recognize will be directly related to what we do here on earth.

Let's read the following Scriptures and highlight what things will bring a promised heavenly reward.

Hebrews 11:6, Colossians 3:23-25, Luke 6:32-36, Matthew 5:11-12

How do these verses add to, change or confirm your understanding of and pursuit of spiritual rewards?

3. Let's reflect back on one of the passages that was shared last Sunday regarding the possibility of rewards and regrets when we have our final audit with God. The passage that was shared was 1 Corinthians 3:11-15.

Let's read the passage in its context starting at the beginning of 1 Corinthians 3. What insights can we share with each other from 1 Corinthians 3:1-15?

Early in this passage, Paul describes them as more infants in Christ rather than mature in Christ. What does he mention that highlights their spiritual immaturity?

At GPC, what are some practical ways we can avoid the issues they were struggling with as they met together in their local church and small groups?

Wrapping Up:

What is an application from what we read or discussed together that you would like to practice in the coming days?

Is there anything that came up from this week's sermon or discussion that you would like prayer for? Is there anything else on your heart that you would like to express prayer for?