MARK 11:19-33

OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE SAY?

1. What are you told in verse 19?
2. What is Peter's observation and Jesus' response? Does Jesus ever answer why he cursed the fig tree?
3. What are we told about faith and prayer?
4. The Jewish leadership (Chief Priests, Scribes and Elders made up the Jewish Supreme Court which was called the Sanhedrin) questions the authority of Jesus. What do they say and how does Jesus respond?
5. Does Jesus ever answer their question? Why or why not?

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN?

1. What does Jesus teach about faith, prayer and forgiveness? Why are faith and forgiveness important elements of prayer?
2. Compare 9:23 and 11:24. What are the limits to our requests?
3. How does an "unforgiving" heart and attitude contribute to tearing down faith?
4. Why are the Jewish leadership so concerned about the issue of authority? Who had the official status and authority in their minds? How had Jesus violated their values?

APPLICATION: WHAT DOES THE PASSAGE MEAN TO ME/US?

1. In what ways do you demonstrate that you have faith in God? Where could you use more faith?
2. Is there something that you have not asked of God because you feel it is either inappropriate or impossible? What is it?
3. Who do you need to forgive? Who do you need to receive forgiveness from?
4. Have you relinquished authority over to Jesus in your life or do you still hold on to authority?
5. What do you think is more important to you, pleasing men or pleasing God?   How do you get to the place where you value honoring God more than protecting or building your own reputation?

ACTION PLAN

Spend time personally and with others in coming up with an action plan inspired by your study. What in this passage compels you to desire a change, to move to action, to become more like Jesus? It could be a change in thinking, behavior, character. It could be internal or external. It could be personal or relational. Just don't leave studying the Bible as simply an intellectual exercise.