

**Powered By Jesus:**

**Living the Abundant Spirit-Filled Life**

**Part 11: “How to Go to Heaven... TODAY”**



**Mark 10:17-31**

*When a wealthy young man asked Jesus how to enter eternal life, Jesus' response was deeply discouraging to him. He had kept the Law of God perfectly, but Jesus told him there was still one thing he lacked—giving away all his wealth to the poor. This baffled the disciples; if the entry requirement to heaven is selling everything, they asked, then how can anyone be saved? Jesus explained that what is impossible for man is indeed possible with God. Jesus wants to lead us not only to an eternal afterlife, but also to an abundant everlasting life that begins right now. To gain entry to this life, we must be willing to surrender ourselves wholly to him, and release to God what He chooses to purify within us. This is what the Bible calls “brokenness” before the Lord—where we allow our hardened, selfish will to break into His love.*

**So What? What am I supposed to DO with this?**

- Meet with Jesus with **brokenness**. Ask Him to search me.
- What am I **unwilling to kneel** before God with? **Decide** if clinging to that thing is worth it, or if I desire closeness with God more.
- **Humble myself** and **bring my flesh to Jesus** for healing.

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**12 Minutes to Abundance:** Each day this week, Monday through Friday, commit yourself to a 12-minute block of time in God's Word and in prayer. Attach it to something else you already do on a regular basis—getting ready in the morning, eating a meal, or commuting to and from work or school or the gym, etc. Give six minutes to the scriptures below, and six minutes to pray and listen to God. Check out our **Daily Six** video series and come along with Pastor Chris each morning as he does his own reading from these texts:

<https://www.youtube.com/@mounthopechurch1651>

**Monday, March 17 – “Following Scripture”**

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**Read slowly and carefully Mark 11:1-11**

Do you know how to pull something relevant for you from the Word of God? This week's **“Daily Six”** will uniquely explore **how** to discover what the Holy Spirit is revealing to us today. Let's learn how to follow the scriptures!

When Jesus entered Jerusalem a week before the Passover celebration, he purposely selected a young colt to ride in fulfillment of **Zechariah 9:9** which prophesied that Messiah would come not as a conquering king, but in humility. Whether the crowds recognized this inference or not, they were anticipating Jesus was the Messiah, and chose their own scripture to fulfill. The shouts of “hosanna” (*which means, “God save us!”*) and the waving of palm branches so familiar to the Easter celebration did not come spontaneously, but rather as an intentional fulfillment of **Psalm 118:25-26**. When we seek to have God move in our circumstances, we should first seek a scriptural model to follow. This will ensure all we do is within God's will.

**Read and pray Psalm 118:19-29** to call upon God for his answer to save and lead you into righteousness. Try praying it this exactly as the psalmist wrote it and add in your own thoughts and words as you worship God.

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**Tuesday, March 18 – “When Jesus Made a Whip”**

**Read slowly and carefully Mark 11:15-17**

What would make Jesus angry in your life or mine? Can you imagine him so frustrated that he would go home and make a whip? Why might he do this?

When Jesus arrived in Jerusalem, he was deeply troubled and began to throw people out of the temple who were buying, selling, and exchanging money, accusing them of making God's **“house of prayer”** into a **“den of robbers”** (**Mark 11:17**). John records that he went home and made a whip to drive out the animals being sold, indicating that this was a premeditated encounter (**John 2:15**). At first glance, it might seem that Jesus' anger was with the selling of things in the temple. But a careful study of the Old Testament law reveals that sacrificial animals were supposed to be sold at the temple for long-distance travelers to acquire a proper sacrifice. The problem was not with selling, but rather with price gouging and profiteering. We should examine ourselves to see if our hearts ever drift from the real purpose of worship towards selfish gain. How would Jesus see our hearts in worship?

**Read and pray Psalm 95** to practice and pursue an honest worship. Try praying it this way: *God, I will come and sing to you with joy and thanksgiving, for you are a great King above everything in my life. I will bow down and kneel before you, my Maker. I choose to soften and not harden my heart. I will enter your rest as I surrender myself to you. In Jesus' name!”*

## Wednesday, March 19 – “Murder and Forgiveness”

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**Read slowly and carefully Mark 11:18 and Mark 11:25**

What do murder and forgiveness have to do with one another? Where might you be in danger of harboring unforgiveness towards someone?

Sometimes two small verses in different parts of a chapter may connect and show us something special. When skimming over the whole of **Mark 11**, you might notice two separate points that both speak to the concepts of hatred and forgiveness in our lives. In **Mark 11:18**, the teachers of the Law felt so threatened by Jesus’ exposure of their sin that they wanted to kill him. In **Mark 11:25**, Jesus connected our willingness to forgive those who have hurt us with God’s ability to forgive us. The Holy Spirit might also bring to our memory **Matthew 5:21-22**, where Jesus equates hating our brother to murder. As we consider these interconnected themes, we should examine our hearts to see where we harbor unforgiveness and even subtle hatred towards someone else. We should ask God to help us forgive and heal.

**Read and pray Psalm 103:8-13** to contemplate the compassion and forgiveness of the Lord, and to choose to extend this same mercy to others. Try praying it this way: *“God, I know that you are compassionate and gracious, not holding my sin against me nor harboring anger. You do not treat me as my sins deserve, and I am so grateful for this. Help me to extend this same mercy to others who may hurt or anger me. As you have removed my sins far from me in compassion, I will do the same for others. In Jesus’ name!”*

## Thursday, March 20 – “Faith and Fig Trees”

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**Read slowly and carefully Mark 11:12-14 and 11:20-24**

What needs to shift and change in your life? What habits, circumstances, behaviors, or expectations are not bearing the positive provision you hoped they would? How might God want you to move them out of the way by faith?

It’s a bit of an odd story to see Jesus cursing a fig tree that had no fruit when he was hungry even though it was not the season for figs. What seems like a brutal and selfish act was actually a set-up designed to demonstrate to the disciples the importance of faith in prayer. When Peter saw the tree withered up the next morning, Jesus connected it to faith, telling him to believe he

could even tell a mountain to cast itself into the sea. While it is obvious that God is not intending for us to use faith to rearrange physical geography—as not even Jesus did this—Jesus was challenging his disciples to use their faith to cast away anything in their lives that was not producing fruit. If something we think will bring us provision in life does not, we should consider if God wants us to move that mountain out of the way so He can do better things.

**Read and pray Matthew 6:25-33** to put your trust in the Lord for His provision in your life. Try praying it this way: *“God, I thank you that you provide for all your creation even when we do not know how to find provision. Just like you supply the birds and nature with all that they need, I trust that you will provide for me. I choose not to worry about the circumstances in my life, but rather to put all my energy into seeking you. In Jesus’ name!”*

## Friday, March 21 – “By What Authority?”

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**Read slowly and carefully Mark 11:27-33**

Is there something that you cannot accept as true because of what else it might confirm to be real? Are you one who is unable to change your mind even when you are exposed to new and contradictory information?

If we will slow down and allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to us where our hearts may be like various characters interacting with Jesus, we might see ourselves in the teachers of the Law in **Mark 11:28**. They became defensive and questioned Jesus’ legitimacy. Perhaps we could be convicted by this interaction to not think too highly of ourselves, but rather *“in humility, consider others better than yourselves”* (**Philippians 2:3**). Or, we might discover a similar struggle they had in **Mark 11:31** where they could not admit the obvious authenticity of John the Baptist’s ministry because it would expose what they didn’t want to be true about Jesus’ authenticity. We humans are good at dodging truth when it leads to something inconvenient that we do not wish to see. We should examine ourselves to see where we are hardening ourselves to God’s truth to hold on to something selfish.

**Read and pray Psalm 139:23-24** to ask God to examine your heart and expose any unrighteous ways. Try praying this way: *“God, I confess to you that my heart is slippery and deceitful even to myself. Please search me and reveal to me where I may be hardening myself against your truth because it might lead me where I do not want to go. Reveal yourself, in Jesus’ name!”*