

Seeing Jesus Means Obedience

Mark 11:1-23

March 8, 2026

SERMON NOTES:

QUESTIONS:

1. What thoughts or questions came up for you during the sermon this week?
2. Where do you find yourself on the anti-curious-admire-follow journey with Jesus? Are there places where you believe God but haven't begun to obey him yet?
3. Read Mark 11:1-11 and 11:22-23. In this section, Mark highlights two kinds of faith: trusting God enough to follow what he says, and trusting that God hears when we pray. Which of these comes more naturally to you—obeying what God says, or believing that he hears your prayers?

4. The Gospel of Mark shows different portraits of Jesus — king, human, divine, suffering servant—which can feel surprising and confusing at times too! Watch the BibleProject video, then discuss: how do these different portraits help you understand who Jesus is? What kind of person does Mark show Jesus to be?



5. Read Mark 11:12-21. Mark places the scene where Jesus cleanses the temple between two scenes about Jesus cursing a fig tree. In the Old Testament, fig trees are a common symbol for Israel (e.g. Hosea 9:10, Jeremiah 8:13). What might the fig tree be showing us about what Jesus finds in the temple? Does the temple cleansing help you understand Jesus's words about the fig tree?

Case Study

Your neighbor Nadia recently decided to visit Faith Church after hearing you talk about your faith. On her way home she saw you and said she had some questions about the sermon, so you invited her out to lunch with your small group. During your conversation she says, *“I know Christians say Jesus is God and all, but I don't see it. Today the pastor was talking about Jesus cursing fig trees, making whips, and flipping tables — sounds more like a mad gardener than God! Plus, I thought God is love—anger and cursing are something humans do. Doesn't that mean Jesus isn't God?”* How would you respond to Nadia? Are there any verses you might use to help?