



Easter 2024

Discussion Group after April 27, 2024
“Jesus and the Non-Answer” Mark 11

Reading Together:

Read the original text (on the reverse side) together as a group. As you read, consider how your attitude or perspective shifted from the first time you heard this story until now (even if you heard it for the first time right before the sermon during our church service.)

Sharing with the Group:

1. How has your perspective on this story changed throughout your life? If this past weekend was your first time hearing this story, how did it change in the time from when it was read, to the sermon, to now?
2. Do you agree or disagree with the idea that a vague church is more harmful than a discriminatory church? Why do you feel this way?
3. This next question can become a competition if we are not careful, so let's remind ourselves that everyone will only share what they are comfortable with, and everyone's suffering is valid. With that in mind, **what have you lost?**
4. How have you heard the voice of God in the process of that loss? Atheists and agnostics: how have you seen something good or beautiful come out of that loss? (If the answer is, “Nothing,” or “I haven't heard God's voice,” then what do you hope would happen within the next year to help you make peace with this loss?)
5. How can these ideas, stories, and discussion help you become more loving in the week to come?

Mark 11:27-33

(Jesus and his disciples) came to Jerusalem again, and as Jesus was walking through the Temple, the chief priests, the religious scholars and the elders asked, “On what authority are you doing these things? Who has given you the power to do them?”

“I will ask you a question—only one,” Jesus replied. “If you give me an answer, I will tell you on what authority I do the things I do. Tell me, was John’s baptism of divine origin, or merely human?”

They thought to themselves, “If we say, ‘divine,’ he will ask, ‘Then why did you not put faith in it?’ But can we say ‘merely human’?”—for they had reason to fear the people, who regarded John as a true prophet. So their answer to Jesus was, “We do not know.”

In turn, Jesus said to them, “Then neither will I tell you on what authority I do the things I do.”