

# *Revolution of Love*

HOW THE  
RESURRECTION OF JESUS  
CHANGES EVERYTHING





# REVOLUTION OF LOVE

## PT. 1: WHEN THE KING COMES

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**Big Idea: When the King Comes In, we are called to move outward!**

### Mark 11:1-20

Jesus is the Messiah – but not just for Israel:

“all the nations of the earth will be blessed through you.”

– Genesis 12:1-2

“...all the nations you have made will come and worship before you, Lord, they will bring glory to your name.”

– Psalm 86:9

“... I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, to open eyes that are blind, to free

captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.”

– Isaiah 42:6-7

“And he will proclaim peace to the nations and he will rule from sea to sea and to the ends of the earth.”

– Zech. 9:10b

The King has come, and now what does that mean for the people of Israel? And what does that mean for us as well, if we now welcome Jesus as King of our lives?

**Fruitless Figs, Forgotten Foreigners, and a False Refuge shed light on what the King has come to change:**



## A. Fruitless Figs

On Monday, after Jesus' "Royal Welcome", he heads towards the Temple from Bethany. On His way there, He sees a fig tree in leaf. Now, when we read that text today, we saw that it said "it was not the time for figs." But often, there are these little nodules on fig trees when they are in leaf. So, when Jesus sees the fig tree in leaf, he goes up to it to grab a nodule to munch.

Upon seeing that it had none, we are startled to hear Jesus say "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." What? Jesus, why curse this fig tree?

- a. This is likely a rotten tree
- b. This a prophetic illustration
- c. Israel is likened to the fruit on a fig tree  
(Hos. 9:10, Jeremiah 24, Jeremiah 8:13)

## B. Forgotten Foreigners

The Passover is when God delivered Israel from slavery in Egypt, and it was a witness that the God of Israel, was God alone – the only true God. It was to be seen as a testimony so that all the nations would see who God is, and then they would 'fear the Lord.' – the nations are supposed to see what God has done and honour Him! (Joshua. 4:23-24, Deuteronomy 4:5-8)

"He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves, and would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts. And as he taught them, he said, "Is it not written: 'My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations' ? But you have made it 'a den of robbers.'"

What is happening? Why is Jesus doing this?

The outer courts, meant for the nations to come and draw near to God, to pray to Him, is filled up. There is no room in the temple for the nations. There is no real seeking God's face, and the nations are being kept out. No inward change that is resulting in outward mission.

## C. False Refuge

Jeremiah 7:2-11

"We are safe"—safe to do all these detestable things? Has this house, which bears my Name, become a den of robbers to you?"

– Jeremiah 7:10-11

**Just as the fig tree is barren, so is the temple –** these stories are linked.

“The locus of salvation now shifts from the temple to Jesus and his death and resurrection. Faith in Him will become the way to God, not the sacrifice of animals in the temple. Thus when Jesus dies, the curtain of the temple is torn from top to bottom.”

– David Garland

## Temples Unveiled

The centerpiece of salvation has changed.  
“the temple veil was torn ...” – Matthew 27:51

Christians are called the temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:19-20)

“The new temple of God’s presence established in the midst of the nations is not a building; it is a people who are given the new life of Christ’s resurrection as they are filled with the Holy Spirit...set in every nation so that the fragrance of the knowledge of God might fill the whole earth.”

– Michael Goheen

“...the Church exists in its prime reality from Monday to Saturday, in all its members, dispersed throughout fields and homes and offices and factories, bearing the royal priesthood of Christ in every corner of his world. On the Lord’s day it is withdrawn into itself to renew its being in the Lord Himself.”

– Lesslie Newbigin



### Implications:

#### **a. Warning: Prayerlessness and Missionlessness**

We can be “adulterous” prayers: Sometimes, we go to God in prayer, not to bring us closer to Himself, but instead asking Him to bring us to our “other lovers.”

**Missionless:** We don’t actually let God take the reigns. We live missionless because we won’t let God move us.

**What is your mission?** Is it to live to the hilt for God? Or are there tables in the way, tables you’ve set up in your life that pull you into your own kingdom rather than seeking God’s kingdom?

#### **b. Let Jesus throw your tables – even if its costly**

Will you let Jesus throw the tables of your life? Are there things that you have set up in your life that are legitimately keeping you from living out the mission of God?

“Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.” Luke 15:1-2

Who is gathering around you, and why?

We can be far too shut off to others, because we care far less about the eternity of others than we should. But their eternity, hangs in the balance. And to whom much is given, much is expected.

**“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep, to gain what he cannot lose.”**

**- Jim Elliot**

What is keeping you from bearing fruit where God has you?

**Are you afraid to look undignified?**

Take up your cross and deny your pride. Let Jesus throw the table of pride over.

**Is it family busyness?**

Take up your cross and deny your busyness. Center your family’s activity on serving God together and not just extracurricular activities. Let Jesus throw the table of lots of activity over so there is room to serve Him together.

**Is it the things you own?**

Take up your cross, and deny your luxury. Use God’s gifts that He has given you, not for building your own Kingdom, but building up God’s Kingdom.

**Are you always in hurry and never with enough time?**

Take up your cross and deny your time. Make spending time with God in prayer a priority, and make serving God and others a priority. Let Jesus throw the table of laziness, nightly television, and constant fun-seeking out.

**Conclusion:**

Let the reconciliation of the Cross move you outward. Sit at the foot of the cross. Let His broken body for you, break you. Let the blood that flowed on the cross for the sins of all pulse through your heart and move your hands and feet outward.

Will you give up that which you cannot keep you gain that which you cannot lose?

**SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS:**

**1. Read Mark 11:12-21**

In Jeremiah 8:11-13 and 24:1-10, God uses figs to depict judgment on Israel and its leaders.



How do both parts of this “sandwich” of the fig tree and the temple explain each other? (adapted from N.T. Wright, Mark Study Guide)

Read the passages of Jeremiah and discuss.

**2. Read Jeremiah 7:2-11.**

What does this tell you about how the temple has become a “false refuge” for the people?

This is the second temple, but history has been repeated. Jesus’ death on the cross is going to end temple worship and make a new covenant. **Read Jeremiah 31:31-34.**

How does Jesus death bring this New Covenant to fruition?

**3. Many of the people of Israel seemed to have missed their missional call as the people of God.**

(Genesis 12:1-2; Psalm 86:9, Isaiah 42:6-7, Isaiah 49:6, Zechariah 9:10 – just to list a few!) How does Jesus bring the salvation of the world into full view for God’s people? (Acts 1:8, Matthew 28:19-20, etc.)

**4. Read 1 John 3:17.**

Share with one another some of the “**tables**” in your life that prevent you from helping others.

How can you, together, let Jesus overthrow those “**tables**” to make room for serving and loving God?

**Reflect and pray on this verse together as you close.** Consider coming up with some action items and ways to serve together.