

Think biblically about the controversy of our day & learn from Jesus to love God and to love others.

Overview

In this week's message, Pastor Lenard led us through the story in Mark 11 and 12, where Jesus is challenged by the established Jewish leaders in Jerusalem. In response to their challenge, Jesus teaches them and the people by answering their question with a question and telling a parable. The leaders' challenge was to question "by what authority" Jesus was teaching and performing his miracles. This challenge revealed that the leaders recognized both Jesus' teaching and witnessed his actions. In the parable of the tenants, Jesus showed these leaders their motivation (v. 7) for rejecting him. We learned in this message that we are able to stand up to controversial issues with the truth and that we are to be clear, honest, and able to communicate in love. Like Jesus, we are to do this by standing on the standards we find in scripture and following Jesus' example of loving others more than himself.

Outline

1. A controversy about authority (11:27-12:12)
2. A controversy about obligation (12:13-17): *1 Peter 2:13-14*
3. A controversy about worldview (12:18-27)
4. A controversy about morality (12:28-34): *1 John 3:16 & 4:20-21*
5. A controversy about deliverance (12:35-37)

Discussion Questions

1. Jesus exposed the religious leaders' motivations in the parable of the tenants.
 - a. How would you describe the motivations behind the challenges of the leaders?
 - b. We are motivated by various factors when making daily and important decisions. What are some of the motivations or influences that guide your decisions? (Consider both small daily decisions and large life altering ones).
2. Building off the last passage of the fig tree, the establishing of Jesus' authority before the leaders, and Jesus' handling of the issues of taxes what can we learn about Jesus' character?
 - a. How should Jesus change our worldview and motivations?
3. Every day, controversial topics are in our news feeds. With a major election coming soon, more controversies will become part of daily conversations. How can this passage motivate you to love others when a controversial topic arises and emotions run high? (Be specific about how you can love God and love others)
4. Was there anything else that you would like to discuss from the sermon or the passage?