

# HOLY WEEK



**April 6, 2020**  
**Turning Tables**

**Prayer:**

Dear Jesus, when you come to us you do not always find things the way that they should be. Help us to confess our sins to you. Then, Jesus, forgive us and make us clean. Amen.

**Read:** Mark 11:12-19

**Devotion:**

When I was a kid, I was always nervous when my parents said that they were going to check my room or some other project they told me to complete. When I was a student in high school, I was always a little nervous when the tutors told me they were going to do a room check.

When Jesus went to visit Jerusalem on that Monday, he didn't find things that he should have found on the tree. There should have been figs on it. He expected it. It had the leaves. It should have had fruit. He was so upset that he cursed this tree because it wasn't bearing the fruit that trees should bear.

When Jesus went to visit the temple, he found all kinds of things that shouldn't have been there. People were exchanging money. People were selling things. This place was a place where God's people could find sanctuary, quiet and rest. But instead, he found a marketplace, a place where people bought and sold things. He was so upset up about this that he turned over tables and threw people out of the temple.

If Jesus were to come to visit you today, what would he find? He wants to find fruit in your life. He wants to find kind words and loving actions. He wants to find prayers and praises. He wants to find you doing the things that he wants you to do. ***Would he find fruit?***

If Jesus were to come and visit you today, what would he find? He wants to find a heart that is devoted to him alone. He wants to find a heart and a life that is only seeking him and him alone. But, what would he find? Would he find you, instead, seeking everything and anything except him?

In his zeal for you, despite what he finds in your heart and what he doesn't find in your life, Jesus does not curse you as he curses the tree. He doesn't throw you out of the temple. Instead, he casts all sin out of

your heart and enters into it. He washes your sin away and makes your heart a place where he lives now. How will you honor him today?

*Additional Reading: Psalm 51; Psalm 130*

**Family Questions:**

1. How do you feel when someone wants to check your room, your chores, or your homework?
2. How would you feel if Jesus came and knocked on the door and wanted a tour of your house?
3. Should we be scared of a visit from Jesus? Why or why not?

**Going Deeper:**

1. What frightens you most about a visit from Jesus? Why?
2. As you look at Psalm 51 and Psalm 130, what emotion seems to dominate these two psalms of confession and forgiveness?
3. Take a moment and confess those specific sins to your Savior.
4. What specific promises do you see in each of the psalms that assure you that even though you are sinful, Jesus will not cast you?
5. Memorize one verse from either one of these psalms.

**Hymn: Jesus Sinners Does Receive**

1 Jesus sinners does receive;  
Oh, may all this saying ponder  
Who in sin's delusions live  
And from God and heaven wander.  
Here is hope for all who grieve  
Jesus sinners does receive.

5 I, a sinner, come to you  
With a penitent confession.  
Savior, show me mercy, too;  
Grant for all my sins remission.  
Let these words my soul relieve  
Jesus sinners does receive.

6 Oh, how blest is it to know,  
Were as scarlet my transgression,  
It shall be as white as snow  
By your blood and bitter passion,  
For these words I do believe  
Jesus sinners does receive.

7 Jesus sinners does receive.  
Even I have been forgiven.  
And when I this earth must leave,  
I shall find an open heaven.  
Dying, still to him I cleave  
Jesus sinners does receive

**Prayer:**

**Lord Jesus, I thank you that even though you find sin in our hearts and lives you will not throw me out like you cleared out the temple. You have cleansed my heart of all sin. Thank you, Jesus. Amen.**