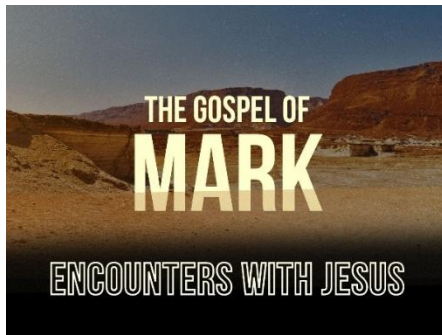




Study Guide

Sunday 2nd November

Roots and Fruits

N.B. There's lots of questions, intended to help provoke thought and conversation not necessarily each demanding its own answer.

Read Mark 11:12-14 & 20-24.

- 1. A tree's roots need a different environment to what's above ground. Whilst hidden, their function is directly linked to the health of the part of the tree that is above ground.**

How do we ensure our roots are in the right place? What do we do to keep our roots healthy? What resources/who do we have to help us? What if we find some roots in the wrong place? Why is it so important to guard our roots (v20)? (It might be useful to read Colossians 2:6-7)

- 2. God gets excited not about what He has given us but about what we do with it.**

What has God given you? Spiritual gifts and practical gifts? Are you just safeguarding some God-given gifts (burying them in the ground) because of fear, worry about repercussions or what someone might say?

- 3. Jesus expects spiritual fruitfulness from His followers, not just an outward show of religiosity. The purpose of a fig tree is not to simply be a tree, but a tree bearing fruit called figs.**

What fruit are you bearing? Do we/should we all bear the same fruit? Can you identify any barren fig trees in your own life—areas where you might have the leaves (outward appearance of faith) but not the fruit?

- 4. Fig trees can have multiple harvests in a year. As one lot ripens and is harvested, the next lot are already visible in bud form and are starting to grow.**

Is God doing something new in your life? Are there new fruits forming? Do you have a long-standing mindset that might be standing in the way of God doing something new?

- 5. The fig tree had leaves but wasn't bearing fruit. The tree was not wintering.**

Have you gone through a season of unfruitfulness? What was at the heart of it? Were you showing signs of unhealthy roots or were you having a season of wintering? How do we tell the difference and how do we support each other in these times?