

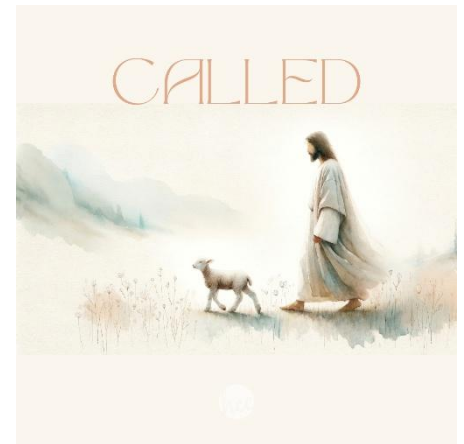
Life Group Study Notes

Date: 7 June 2026

Sermon: Called to a new identity

Speakers: Andrew Stubbins

Scripture: Mark 11:12-26



Scripture questions:

1. V.12-13. Why did Jesus think there might be figs on the tree? Why might it have been unreasonable for him to do so? How do you explain the discrepancy? Have you ever had a fruit tree that bore leaves but no fruit? What was your attitude towards that tree?
2. Gen.3:7. What did Adam and Eve use fig leaves for? What did God provide them with? (V.21). An animal had to die (the first animal sacrifice) to provide clothes for them. What had to happen to provide suitable clothes for us? (Rev.7:14).
3. V.14. Jesus' curse was a sign of judgement. How does Jesus judge hypocrites who appear good but have no fruit? (Matt.23:27-28). How can one identify hypocrisy today?
4. V.15-16. What was the 'fruit' of temple activity? The Court of the Gentiles had become a thoroughfare of commerce and exploitation. How strongly did Jesus feel about this activity?
5. V.17. What should have been going on in the temple? The religious system of the time was full of leaves but no fruit. How did Jesus say worship would take place in the future? (John 4:20-24). What does this type of worship look like?
6. V.22-23. The temple mount had been the centre of Jewish identity since Solomon and later, Herod. Jesus came to announce a change in the status quo. What did he announce? (Mark 1:14-15; Jn.14:6). What new identity are we called to? What fruit flows from that identity? (Gal.5:22-23).

Personal questions:

- What leaves do we cover ourselves in? What do they hide?
- What fruit do we bear in season and out of season?
- Are we truly able to discern the fruit in other people's lives, or do we just look from a distance and only see leaves?

Prayer:

Our Father in Heaven, thank you for that Holy Week when Jesus entered and exited Jerusalem until which time he was finally crucified and rose again on the 3rd day. Thank you for the lesson of the cursed fig tree and Jesus' passion for your temple. Thank you that He announced and began to usher in your Kingdom. In the absence of a physical temple, we praise you that you have made your home in us who have your Holy Spirit. Help us to be affirmed and strong in that identity: Jesus in us, the hope of glory. In His name. Amen.