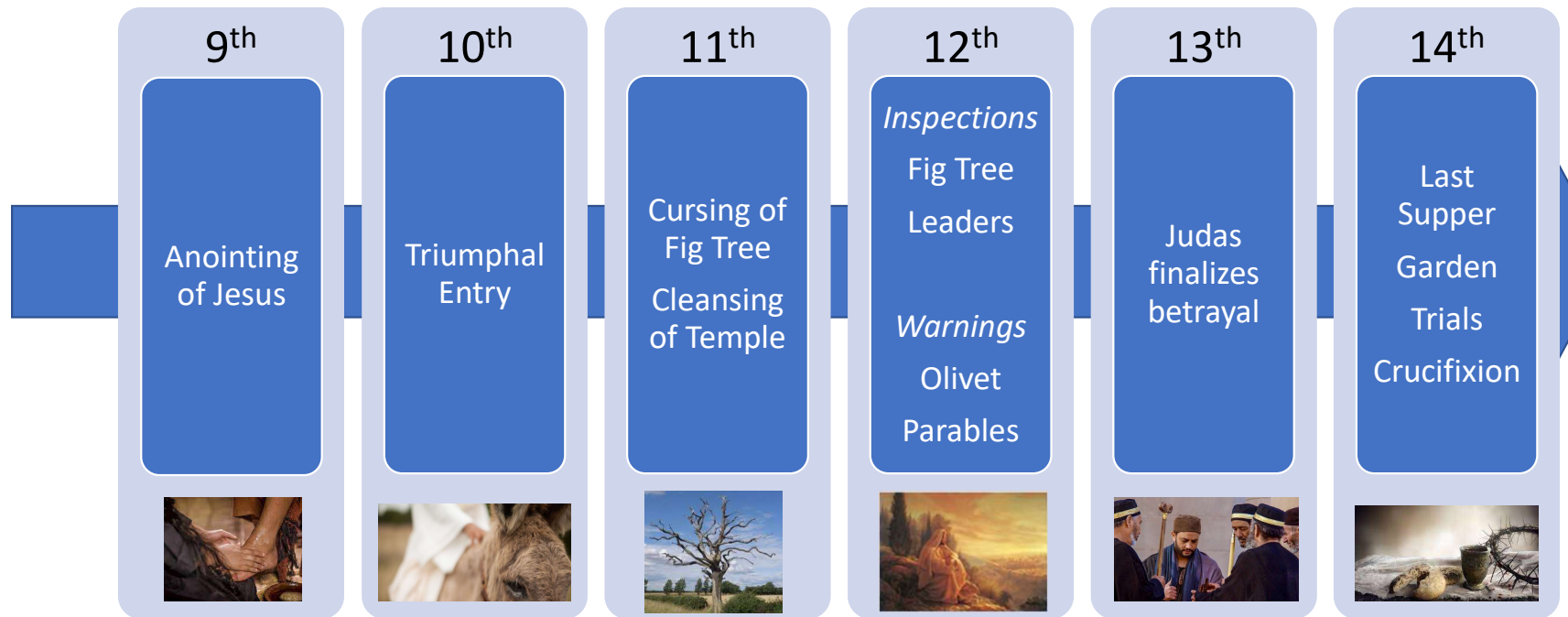


The Last Week of the Lord's Life

Class 2 – The Priest's Inspection



Last Week of the Lord's Life - Overview



1. The King's Entry
2. The Priest's Inspection
3. The Watchman's Warning
4. A Friend's Memorial
5. The Lamb's Offering

The Priest's Inspection – Outline



Event	Inspector	Inspected
Inspection & Cursing of Fig Tree	Jesus	Nation
Cleansing of temple	Jesus	Priests
Withered Fig Tree	Jesus	Nation
Authority Questioned	Jewish Leaders	Jesus
3 parables (2 sons, Vineyard, Wedding Garment)	Jesus	Jewish Leaders
3 questions (Taxes, Resurrection, Great Command)	Jewish Leaders	Jesus
1 unanswered question (whose son is Messiah?)	Jesus	Jewish Leaders

The Priest's Inspection of the House



It was the priest's job to inspect and address a leprous house (**Lev 14**)

- **v.34-35: house was believed to have leprosy**
 - Nation did not know day of its inspection (**Lk 19:44**)
- **v.36: priest commanded to empty the house**
 - Jesus issued the command (**Lk 19:46**)
- **v.40: priest shall 'cast' the stones into an 'unclean place without the city'**
 - Stones = people and Jesus was 'casting out' (**Lk 19:45**) these commercial agents from the house
- **v.42: other stones put in place of original stones**
 - 'stones would immediately cry out' = Gentiles taking place of Jews (**Lk 19:40**)
- **v.45: eventually, if condition of house didn't improve, then it would be broken down**
 - Not one stone left upon another (**Lk 19:44**)

Jesus was demonstrating that he was the true Priest of God!

Removing the Leaven...



At Passover, leaven needed to be removed – no ‘leaven seen with thee in all thy quarters’ (Ex 13:7)

NT Ref	Leaven	Old Behavior	→	New Behavior
Matt 16:12	False doctrine/teachings	<i>the right thing for me</i>		<i>the right thing</i>
Lk 12:1	Hypocrisy	<i>how I am appearing</i>		<i>who am I becoming</i>
1 Cor 5:6; Gal 5:9	Pride / Unrepentant Spirit	<i>being right</i>		<i>getting it right</i>
1 Cor 5:8	Malice & wickedness	<i>how much others owe me</i>		<i>how much God has forgiven me</i>

Penalty for consuming leaven during Passover... ‘cut off from the congregation of Israel.’ (Ex 12:19)

The Withered Fig Tree



In the morning (**Mk 11:20**), fig tree was dried up from the roots (cp **Matt 3:10**)

Jesus says 3 things:

1) Have faith in God (v.22) – why?

- Next 2 days would be very challenging and doubts would creep into their minds

2) Mountain can be removed and cast it into the sea if you believe and don't doubt (v.23) – why?

- Mt of Olives became a national symbol of corruption in worship (**1 Kings 11:7; 2 Kings 23:13**)
- Despite this, God could forgive... if they believed (cp **Mic 7:19**)
- Jesus would face trial here in 2 days and desired it removed... 'take this cup from me' (**Mk 14:36**)

3) Pray, forgive, believe, receive (v.24-25) – why?

- Disciples would suffer many things & must learn to forgive
- Temper with God's will (**Mk 14:36**) – all things are possible with God, but not all things are His will

If we have full faith and pray without doubting, then regardless of outcome, we can be confident of God's will

Full inspection of the Lamb



Jesus' cleansing of the temple led to a full-on offensive from the leaders...

Chief priests, scribes, and elders inspect his authority (Mk 11:27; Matt 21:23)

1) By what authority do you do these things?

2) Who gave you this authority?

Parable	Message	Proof	Result
2 Sons Matt 21:28-32	My authority is of God	John sent by God to teach about me, but you rejected John	It will cost you the kingdom (v.31) Others will enter instead (v.32)
Vineyard Matt 21:33-45	God (my Father) gave me the authority	God built the nation (<i>vineyard</i>) & gave it to me (<i>my Son</i>). You know this (<i>the heir</i>) and will kill me	Promises will be given to Gentiles (v.43)
Wedding Feast Matt 22:1-14	You were invited by the King to participate	God has called multiple times, but you have rejected each time	Jerusalem will be destroyed (v.7) Gospel → Gentiles (vv. 9-10) You will be rejected (vv. 13-14)

Pharisees, Herodians, & Sadducees inspect him politically, doctrinally, & intellectually

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| • Political: Pharisees and Herodians | Matt 22:15-22 | Tribute to Caesar | Give yourselves to God, forsake materialism |
| • Doctrinal: Sadducees | Matt 22:23-33 | Riddle of 7 husbands | Resurrection & life is a part of who God is |
| • Intellectual: Pharisees | Matt 22:34-40 | greatest command | Love God with whole self and neighbor as self |

Jesus inspected them all regarding the authority and origin of Christ (Matt 22:41-45)

Result of inspection: 'No man' could answer him or find flaw in his answers (Matt 22:46)... no blemish in Lamb of God!

The Priest's Inspection – Summary



- **Inspection of Fig Tree:** Jesus is looking for fruit of character transformation in our lives
 - Are we focused on 'how we are appearing' or on 'who we are becoming'?
- **Cleansing of Temple:** We need to remove the noise so Jesus can teach us
 - Are our minds a 'house of prayer' or a place of distraction?
- **Withered Fig Tree:** If we pray, forgive, and believe we will receive power to overcome
 - Do we pray believing 'all things are possible with God'... what is holding us back?
- **Questioning of Authority:** Our response to feedback in this life
 - Do we lash out in self-justification or elevate to self-reflection?

Jesus is inspecting the thoughts/intents of our hearts to help us grow (Heb 4:12-16)