



Mark 11

Mark 11:20-25

Does this passage teach we can pray for whatever we want and get it?

-we can't draw a theology or belief system from one verse

What do we have to believe without doubting?

1) that God is able to do what we ask

-the context is the disciples are stunned that Jesus made the tree die

-after all they saw how are they stunned he killed a tree

-Jesus main point is having the faith that God can do anything

*The point is not that God will fulfill our every whim but that he can do anything

**This is especially important when we don't get what we asked for

2) we need to line ourselves up with God's will

-If we look at Jesus other teachings on prayer he is pretty clear that we need to ask according to

God's will, not just ours

-There are other passages that promise God will answer our prayers and there is always a condition

-John 14:13-14, John 15:7, 1 John 5:14-15

-We must be on the same page as God and asking according to his will

-Ultimately it is God's will that is most important because he knows what's best in each circumstance

-Our requests can fall into one of three categories

1) We know it not God's will

2) We know it is God's will

3) We're not sure whether it is God's will

-We should obviously not pray for the first

-We can have great confidence in praying for the second

-We ask boldly about the third with the understanding that we want to submit to the will of God

(Mark 14:36)

-Ultimately prayer is about us submitting ourselves to the plan of God and finding comfort in that

-It's not about us convincing God to do what we want

Small Group

1) How do we know what is God's will, maybe not specific details for our life but the general will of God?

2) What are some things we can pray for that we know for sure are God's will?

3) What sort of things should we focus our prayer on?