

# The Sincere Prayer of Jesus

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Mark 11.12-24

The brutal truth is many Christians struggle with prayer. When we do pray we are not always sincerely engaging God. What was Jesus's prayer like?

Mark 11.22-24: Is Jesus promising that our prayers will be answered if only we believe the unbelievable without doubting?

Verses 12-14:

- On the day after Palm Sunday Jesus made his way to the temple from Bethany.
- He spotted a fig tree that appeared to have fruit but did not as it was too early. Finding it fruitless he cursed the tree and it died from the roots up.
- This is a prophetic act of judgment presaging what Jesus will do when he arrives in Jerusalem.

Verses 15-17:

- The court of the Gentiles was a wide, walled enclosure set up to allow non-Jews, or rejected people, the opportunity to worship God.
- The tables were set up to receive the half-shekel tax that was required of all Jewish males. Jesus overturning these tables means he finds them fruitless.
- More than that, Jesus is cursing the Temple from the roots up just as he did to the fig tree.

Verses 18-21:

- Jesus offends the leaders who begin to plot his murder.
- Peter and the disciples note that the fig tree is not dead from the roots up.

Verses 22-24:

- Standing on the Mount of Olives and pointing to the Temple Mount

Jesus says that if you have faith you can cast that mountain into the sea.

- In context Jesus is making three points:
  1. The old order is rejected and the new one is based on faith.
  2. It is sustained by grace and not by sacrifices.
  3. It is characterized by forgiveness.

The main point is, we can pray within this new order by faith, in grace as we practice forgiveness and our prayers will be heard and will be answered. THAT IS SINCERE PRAYER.

1. We offer prayer according to God's will .
2. We offer prayer in faith  
(Contrasted with doubt).
3. Our prayer will overcome insurmountable odds when accompanied by forgiveness .