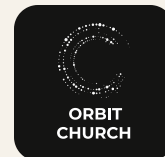


Preparing For God To Move

2025-04-13 • PASTOR MATT ROSE



Colossians 1:29

FOR THE LEADER

These questions help you run the conversation. They are not your study. Get into the passage yourself first, because your group needs what God taught you, not just a list of questions. These also lean on Sunday's message, so a few will not land for anyone who missed it. Watch it before you lead.

WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT

A move of God is not something to stumble into. Preaching the week before Easter, Pastor Matt walked through the week before the cross, the fig tree that got cursed and the temple that got cleared, and drew out how Jesus prepared the ground before anything happened. Being called out by God, the way Jesus cleared the temple, is part of being formed by him, not a reason to leave. Pastor Matt gave five preparations: expect the excitement to fade and build something steadier, prepare to be called out, reposition yourself to hear God, prepare for sacrifice, and trust that God is already present.

To get started

- What is something you prepared for that turned out better because you had?

Looking back at the message

Initial excitement fading is a realistic point, not a cynical one.

- 1 Pastor Matt said initial excitement always fades, and something steadier has to replace it. Where have you watched that happen in yourself?
- 2 Being called out by God is part of being formed by him, the way Jesus cleared the temple to prepare it. How do you usually respond to correction?
- 3 Pastor Matt said God always discloses himself before he moves. Does that match your experience of God? OPTIONAL

Looking at the passage

Read Mark 11:12-25 aloud. The fig tree brackets the temple scene.

- 4 Read Mark 11:15-17. What does Jesus do in the temple, and what reason does he give from Scripture?
- 5 Mark tells the fig tree story in two halves, wrapped around the temple scene. What might that sandwich arrangement be saying?
- 6 Read Colossians 1:29. Paul says he strenuously contends. Where does he say the energy comes from?
- 7 What is the difference between waiting for God to move and preparing for him to move?

OPTIONAL

Bringing it home

Fasting and prayer are the concrete asks. Do not skip them for the abstract.

- 8 Pastor Matt named four ways to prepare: fasting, prayer, alertness, and trust. Which of those have you actually practiced, and which is missing?
- 9 Where has your excitement about something faded, and what would steadiness look like in its place?
- 10 Pastor Matt talked about physically repositioning himself to hear God better, changing how and where he prays. What would repositioning mean for you?
- 11 What sacrifice might be part of what God is preparing in you? OPTIONAL

The group together

The soil metaphor is about slow work. Keep expectations honest.

- 12 Pastor Matt described inviting people to church as preparing soil for a harvest that may be months away. Whose soil are you preparing?
- 13 How can this group prepare together rather than only individually?
- 14 If God actually moved in this church, what would this group need to be ready for?

BEFORE YOU FINISH

What is one thing you could do this week to prepare rather than wait?

You might pray about

- For excitement that becomes something steadier
- For humility when we are the ones being corrected
- For soil being prepared in people we have invited
- For readiness rather than surprise