

# The Life Challenge

Title: New Things  
Text: Mark 11:1-11  
Speaker: Matt Ewert  
Date: April 5, 2020



## WARM-UP

Share one thing that stood out to you from this past weekend's teaching.

## DISCUSSION

**Share about a time you experienced a significant disappointment.**

- What were you expecting?
- How sure of realizing that expectation were you?
- What actually happened?
- How did that make you feel?

**Read Mark 11:1-11. Jesus must have known that the way he chose to enter the city will have created expectations within many people about his role and "mission" that he knew he wouldn't live up to (at least not in the way they were expecting).**

- Given that, why do you think Jesus entered the city as he did? Why did he not correct the people's expectations, or enter in a way less likely to be misconstrued?
- In what ways were the people's expectations right, and in what ways did they miss the mark?
- After Jesus' 3 years of ministry and teaching, why do you think people still had wrong expectations about how his mission would play out?

**Read Isaiah 43:16-19**

- How do you respond to change in life?
- Do you tend to prefer the "new" or like to stick with the "old"?
- If this passage was God's word to YOU today, would that feel welcome or unsettling?

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## DISCUSSION

### **Reflect on the way life is today compared to a month ago.**

- Have you discovered any unexpected blessing in the disruption to your "normal" life?
- What lessons do you think God might be teaching you?
- What new thing might God be doing in your life right now? How might he be shaping your life to look different on the other side of this pandemic than it was before?

### **Pray**

- Ask God to give you eyes to see the new things he wants to do in and around you, and for open hands to receive that from him (instead of clenched fists clinging to "former things").