

# The Last Week Of Jesus' Life - Jesus Curses The Fig Tree

Sunday AM 04/07/19

## Introduction:

*Matthew 21.17-20* and *Mark 11.11-14, 20-24* give the account of Jesus cursing a fig tree. Jesus taught daily in the temple but spent the nights at Bethany. Bethany was a small village about two miles outside of Jerusalem.

### I. Jesus Sees The Fig Tree and Approaches Looking For Fruit

#### A. Facts about the fig tree

1. Fig trees that do not bear fruit are useless
2. Fig trees put on figs and then their leaves; this tree was showing signs of having fruit. (Do not be fooled by the point, it was not yet time for figs. This tree was showing signs of having fruit.)
3. Jesus had every right to expect to see figs but upon inspection found none.
4. Jesus judged and condemned the tree.

#### B. How does this relate to the events in Jerusalem?

1. The Jewish nation claimed to be God's people.
  - a. God had protected and nurtured them. The law had been revealed to them, *Romans 3.1-2*
  - b. They had a way to approach God and offer sacrifices to Him, *Hebrews 9.6-7*
  - c. They had the temple of God, *Hebrews 9.2-5*

- d. They had the outward appearance of religion: clothes, language, rituals, etc.
2. Jesus came with every right to expect a fruit bearing people
  - a. They had every reason to expect the coming of the Messiah.
  - b. Messianic prophecies pointed toward the time, the place, and the manner of His birth, His work, and sacrifice.
3. Jesus upon inspection of the Jewish nation did not find a fruit bearing people, He found only leaves. (Hypocrisy, human traditions, blind guides, white washed tombs, etc)
4. Why? They did not have nor live by faith, *Romans 1.17*
5. As such they were about to be judged by God, *Matthew 3.10*.

## **II. How Does This Relate To Us?**

### **A. There are at least two lessons in this passage**

1. Profession without practice is condemned
2. The judgment of God will be severe, *1 Peter 4.17-18*

### **B. Jesus asked the question, *Luke 18.8b***

1. Will He come and find a fruit bearing people?
  - a. The absence of evil is not the same as the presence of good, *John 15.2; Matthew 12.30*

- b. When good people do nothing, nothing gets done, *Matthew 25.18.,25*
  - c. When good people do nothing, evil triumphs, *Ephesians 5.11*
  - d. When good people do nothing, they are no longer good for nothing, *James 4.17; Matthew 5.13*
- 2. Will our fruit be acceptable to Him? *Matthew 7.21ff*
  - 3. Will He find a zealous people? *Titus 2.14*
- C. It comes down to a matter of faith, *Romans 1.17*
  - D. If the seed is the word of God, then faith is part of the nutrients.
    - 1. Do we have faith in God?
    - 2. Do we have faith in God's word?
    - 3. Faith requires works, *James 2.17-18,26*

**Conclusion:**

What will Jesus find in your life, nothing but leaves or fruit?