

A FOLLOWER OF JESUS IS TO PRODUCE "FRUIT"

Mark 11:1-26

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: (Mark 11:1-11) - Jesus arrives in Jerusalem for "Passion Week" and He had His disciples get a colt (donkey) for Him to ride on as He entered the city. The people heard of His coming so they gathered palm branches and spread them on the street before Jesus and they also spread their robes and cloaks at His feet when He walked up the steps leading into the Temple. Everyone was shouting "Jehu is King!" The crowd responded to Jesus because He was riding on a donkey as described in *Zechariah 9:9*. They hailed Jesus as the Messiah king.

The temple Jesus entered was very large, 150 feet tall, 150 feet long, about the size of a 15 story building. The city was filled with people from all over and everyone was focused on the Temple, the center of religious activity. What Jesus saw brought anger to Him for there was much change in the Temple, which took away the holiness of the place.

I. DECEPTION, FALSENESS WILL BE UNCOVERED

1. *Mark 11:12-19*

2. Jesus passed by a fig tree that should have had much fruit on it.

- Jesus stopped by the tree that was in full growth, full of green leaves, at the season of fruit bearing.
- It was fruit bearing season for fig trees and this tree appeared to be very fruitful.
- Jesus expected to find ripe figs on the tree, but found none, only leaves
- The fig tree deceived those who saw it and thought there was fruit on it.
- Jesus cursed the tree and it died.

3. As Jesus entered the Temple, He noted that the Gentile area for worshiping had been changed into a market and money exchange area.

- The area was supposed to be, had been designated as a place of worship.
- The Temple was being deceptive for instead of a place to worship, it was a place of commerce.

4. As the fig tree had leaves, there should have been fruit, as the Temple was a place of worship, there should have been worship.

- The tree was pretending to bear fruit.
- The religious leaders were pretending to "bear fruit" for the Lord but were not.
- The Temple was there, a place of worship and there should have been worship but there was not.
- From a distance, the fig tree and the Temple appeared to be in their true condition but upon closer inspection, their falseness was made clear.
- What about YOUR life? If the Lord followed you around all week, would He find fruit or deception?

II. BEARING FRUIT PLEASES THE LORD

1. *Mark 11:20-26*

2. One's actions should be consistent with his/her "so called" faith.

- The trueness of one's faith is consistent with one's actions.
- Prayer and forgiveness are almost impossible to counterfeit.

- As one's pulse is the sign of a heartbeat, so "fruit" is the sign of genuine, true spiritual life.

- ***"Every Christian will bear spiritual fruit. Somewhere, sometime, somehow. Otherwise that person is not a true believer. Every born-again person will be fruitful. Not to be fruitful is to be faithless, without faith, and therefore without salvation..."***

3. Jesus expects to see "fruit" from His followers with prayer being the primary fruit of a believer.
- Prayer was missing from the Temple... ***"...My house shall be called a house of prayer..."***

4. Take an inventory of YOUR own life. Are you like the barren fig tree, look like there is fruit from a distance but up close reveals no lasting fruit? Are you like the Temple, a designated place of worship and prayer yet both were missing?

- The physical bodies of believers are the "temple" of God, indwelt by the Holy Spirit.

- Do YOU consider yourself to be a true "worshipful" person?

- Are YOU productive for the Lord? Does your life in Jesus bear fruit? What kind? If Any?

CONCLUSION:

1. Would you dare do this?

- Ask God to look closely at your life,

See what all is inside

Test you to see how you react

Get a genuine picture of what you are really like

Find everything that you have done wrong

Guide you, help you get your life straightened out as it should be

Lead you as you should walk on the road to eternal life.

2. Nobody wants to reveal their true selves to others so everybody has an area of "pretense" about them.

- However, the Lord Jesus knows even one's thoughts, nothing is hidden from Him.

3. Begin now to be honest with yourself and with others, put away pretense, bear good fruit for the Lord.