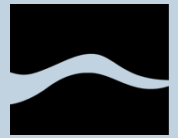


SERMON NOTES

TELL ME ABOUT HIS AUTHORITY OVER FRUITLESS RELIGION

Mark 11:12-25



BIG IDEA: Jesus calls us out of fruitless religion and into a life of faith-filled prayer and forgiveness.

APPLICATION GUIDE

APRIL 19, 2026

DISCUSS

Think of a time when something looked really good on the outside—but turned out to be disappointing when you experienced it.

- What made it seem promising at first?
- What revealed that it wasn't what it appeared to be?

In Mark 11, Jesus confronts that same kind of disconnect—but spiritually.

EXPLORE

What is the significance of the fig tree having leaves but no fruit (vv. 12–14)? How does it function as a living parable (v. 20)?

Why does Jesus react so strongly in the temple (vv. 15–19)? How do Isaiah 56:6-7 and Jeremiah 7:9-11 help explain Jesus' actions?

How does Jesus define true, fruitful faith (vv. 20–25)? How are the elements of this definition interconnected?

APPLY

Are there areas where you appear spiritually healthy but lack real faith or obedience? Or, how are you going through the motions, but not really thriving in your relationship with God?

How would you rate the quality of your prayer life: non-existent, little faith, some faith, much faith, great faith? What would it look like for you to pray with greater faith?

Am I holding onto bitterness that is affecting my relationship with God?

COMMIT

This week, I will pursue one specific step of fruitful faith by:

- trusting God in...
- praying intentionally about...
- seeking to forgive or reconcile with...