



The Gospel of Mark Following Christ

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Prophetic Action in the Temple & Cursing a Fig Tree

Mark 11:12-25

July 2, 2017

Pastor Bob Meissner

Theme: After Jesus is hailed as King, He performs two symbolic acts: The cursing of an unfruitful fig tree and clearing the temple of commerce. The fig tree episode “sandwiches” the clearing of the temple and represents God’s judgment against Jerusalem and the temple because they failed to produce fruit. It is concluded by further instruction of His disciples.

Outline

1. Jesus Curses the Fig Tree (11:12-14)
 - a. Jesus’ Hunger & finding a fruitless fig tree (vv.12, 13)
 - b. Jesus pronounces a curse against the tree (v. 14)

2. Jesus Clears the Temple (11:15-19)

- a. Driving out buyers, sellers, money changers & shortcuts (vv. 15, 16)
- b. Pronouncement of Judgment from Isaiah 56:7 & Jer. 7:11 (v. 17)
- c. Religious leader's response & His departure (vv. 18-19)

3. Discovery of the Withered Fig Tree (11:20-21)

4. Jesus' Teaching on Keys to Spiritual Success (11:22-25)

- a. Teaching on faith (vv. 22-23)
- b. Teaching about prayer (v. 24)
- c. Teaching about forgiveness (v. 25)

Takeaways:

- 1) Jesus expects His followers to bear fruit, demonstrating faithfulness with the gifts and calling God has given us.
- 2) Jesus also calls us to demonstrate faith in our prayers. Behind them stands the creator of the universe. Yet they must fit with the rest of the Bible's teaching on prayer.

Next Cove: July 9, 2017
A Challenge to Jesus' Authority
Mark 11:27-33