



Scripture

12 On the following day, when they came from Bethany, he was hungry. **13** And seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to see if he could find anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. **14** And he said to it, “May no one ever eat fruit from you again.” And his disciples heard it.

15 And they came to Jerusalem. And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold and those who bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. **16** And he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple. **17** And he was teaching them and saying to them, “Is it not written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations’? But you have made it a den of robbers.” **18** And the chief priests and the scribes heard it and were seeking a way to destroy him, for they feared him, because all the crowd was astonished at his teaching. **19** And when evening came they went out of the city.

20 As they passed by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered away to its roots. **21** And Peter remembered and said to him, “Rabbi, look! The fig tree that you cursed has withered.” **22** And Jesus answered them, “Have faith in God. **23** Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and thrown into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him. **24** Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. **25** And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.” (Mark 11:12-25 ESV)

Outline

Big Idea: Jesus challenges us to live in faith

Point 1. Jesus curses unfruitful faith (vv12-14)

Point 2. Jesus judges our hypocrisy (vv15-19)

Point 3. Jesus invites us to trust in him (vv20-25)

Discussion Questions

Icebreaker: Have you ever been so angry about an injustice or fraud that you had to do something about it? Tell us about it.

Point 1: Jesus curses our unfruitful faith (vv12-14)

- Why do you think Jesus cursed the fig tree, even though it was not the season for figs? What deeper meaning might this action have?
- In what ways might our lives look spiritually “leafy” but lack true fruit?
- What kind of “fruit” is God looking for in our daily lives (see Galatians 5:22-23)?

Point 2: Jesus judges our hypocrisy (vv15-19)

- The buying and selling of the animals (for profit) took place in the only area where the Gentiles could worship. Why would that especially anger Jesus (see Isaiah 56:6-8)?
- What does this event reveal about Jesus?

Point 3: Jesus invites us to trust in him (vv20-25)

- The disciples were amazed that the fig tree withered so quickly. How does Jesus use this moment to teach about faith and prayer?
- Jesus says, “Have faith in God.” What does true faith look like according to this passage?
- How can we as a group encourage each other to live out authentic faith this week?

Your Prayer

Write out a three-sentence prayer based off this passage.