

Series "The God Who Serves"
"Fruitless Religion"
Mark 11:12-21
Study-43

This is a "Visible Parable, A Miracle of Judgment"; an analogy, a metaphor, an illustration of the coming destruction of the temple.

Two Cleansings of the Temple:

1st Cleansing – recorded by John at the beginning of Jesus' ministry:
John 2:13-22

2nd Cleansing – the last week of Jesus' ministry: **Matt 21:12-17; Mark 11:15-18; Luke 19:45-48** (3 short years, it was in disorder again!)

This passage is also recorded: Fig Tree/Temple – Matt 21:12-20; Mark 11:12-21; Cleansing Of The Temple – Luke 19:45-48

The Thought Of Our Passage: "A Life In Vital Union With Jesus Will Produce Fruit; It's Dangerous To Substitute Foliage For Fruit."

1. Verses 12-14 – Fruitless Fig

2. Verses 15-19 – Fruitless Worship

3. Verses 20-21 – Fruitless And Dead

1. Verses 12-14 – Fruitless Fig:

Mark 11:12

"And on the next day," – Jesus arrived on Sunday in Jerusalem; "Jesus' Triumphal Entry", Mark 11:1-11

Mark 11:11

God Is Hungry! This teaches the doctrine of the incarnation. Jesus Christ is both (Son Of God) Deity and (Son Of Man) Humanity

Mark 11:13

Fig Tree: two full yields in a year. The first is June, the second is September. The unique thing about the fig is that it is in full fruit and full leaf and full flower all at the same time; this happens by June; Grow 20' high 20 Feet wide.

Fig Tree Is A Symbol Of Israel: Jer. 8:13 (Jer. 24:1-10; Hosea 9:10; Micah 7:1; Mark 13:28)

Fig Tree Represented Peace/Prosperity: (1 Kings 4:25; Micah 4:4; Zech 3:10)

The Savior Seeks Fruit – John 15:8

Note Where The Savior Seeks For Fruit – Matthew 7:16

Profession Without Performance: "He found nothing but leaves,"

"in leaf," – leaves symbolize "mere profession, hypocrisy of religion, the foliage is that which is outward, leaves of outer religion"

False Advertisement: "for it was not the season for figs."

Rev 3:1 – "you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead."

2 Tim 3:5

Adam & Eve Attempted To Cover Their Sin With Fig Leaves. Gen. 3:7

Foliage Is Never A Substitute For Fruit!

Mark 11:14

Judgment On An Unhealthy/Hypocritical Fig Tree: "He answered and said to it, 'May no one ever eat fruit from you again!'"

Luke 13:6-9 – Parable Of The Fruitless Fig Tree

Matt 21:19

2. Verses 15-19 – Fruitless Worship:

Mark 11:15

Pictures of Temple: Temple – Divided Into 5 Different Courts:

1. The Court Of The Gentiles – the temple – The area is called the "Court of the Gentiles"; columns surrounding it, several acres; Over 3 Football Fields.
2. The Court of the Women – Women could only worship here.

3. The Court of Israel – Men of Israel only would come to worship.
4. The Court of the Priests – Priests alone could enter; Sacrifices.
5. The Inner Court Sanctuary, Holy of Holies – For high Priest only.

“were buying and selling in the temple,” – This area had become a flea market.

Worship Made Convenient With Little Commitment.

“and overturned the tables of the moneychangers” – (Ex. 30:11-14)

“and the seats of those who were selling doves;” – (Lev. 1:3; Lev 5)

It is only logical that the condition of the worship had to be traced back to the condition of the heart; Being spiritually dead (Fig Tree, No Fruit But Leaves).

William Temple defined worship as, “to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God, to devote the will to the purpose of God.”

Mark 11:16

There are no “Short-cuts In Worship!”

Mark 11:17 (Jeremiah 7:11)

“Is it not written,” – notice that Jesus returns to the Scriptures for the basis for His actions and His attitude.

Is. 56:7

“shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations”? Literally – “My house will be a house of prayer for Gentiles”, 1 Kings 8:41

“But you have made it a robber’s den.” – Jesus wants them praying to God but instead they were preying on others.

Jer 7:9-11

“Den” – was “a cave or hideout where those who were thieves and robbers could go and hide.”

1 Cor 6:19-20

2 Cor 6:16

Ephesians 2:21

Why did Jesus cleanse the temple? To remind us that our hearts belong to Him.

Mark 11:18

“the chief priests and the scribes heard this, and began seeking” – “kept on seeking, began seeking”

Mark 11:19

3. Verses 20-21 – Fruitless And Dead:

Mark 11:20 – “And as they were passing by in the morning,” – Tuesday morning

Psalm 1:1-3

Mark 11:21

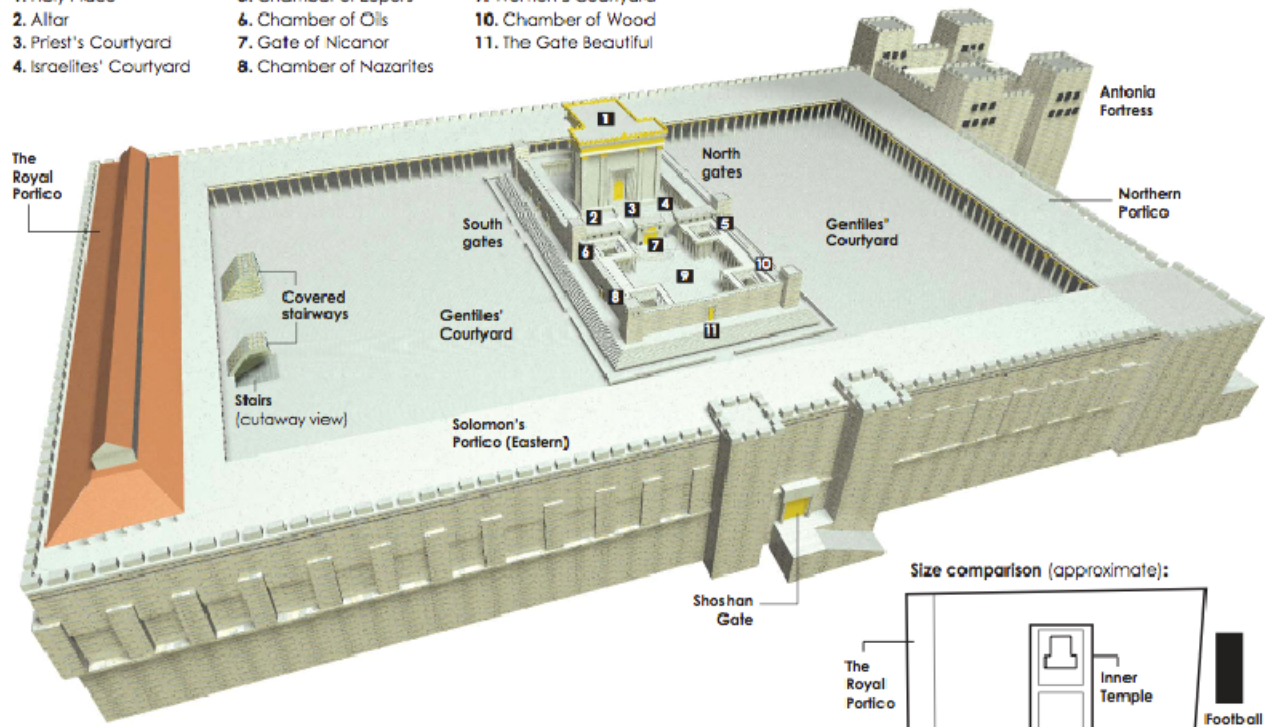
Application:

1. Foliage Is Never A Substitute For Fruit.
2. The Condition Of The Temple Said Volumes About Israel's Relationship With God – A Lack Of His Presence, A Wrong Attitude Toward The House Of God. Our Worship Is Where Our Hearts Are.
3. The Fig Tree Withered From The Roots Up. The Root Determines The Fruit.

Herod's "Second" Temple on the Temple Mount

King Herod the Great began renovations on the Second Temple approximately 20-19 BC. The entire temple expansion, including the massive Temple Mount, was not completed until approximately 62-44 AD, only to be destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD.

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| 1. Holy Place | 5. Chamber of Lepers | 9. Women's Courtyard |
| 2. Altar | 6. Chamber of Oils | 10. Chamber of Wood |
| 3. Priest's Courtyard | 7. Gate of Nicanor | 11. The Gate Beautiful |
| 4. Israelites' Courtyard | 8. Chamber of Nazarites | |



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