

The Fig Tree & the Temple: Two Unforgettable Object Lessons

Mark 11:11-18

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Living Parables...

- Is. 20:1-6 – Isaiah goes without his outer garment and shoes
- Jer. 13:1-11 – the ruined linen waistband
- Jer. 19:1-13 – the broken jar
- Ezek. 4:1-13 – the tile with the sketch of Jerusalem
- Ezek. 12:1-6 – the baggage for exile
- Ezek. 24 – the boiling pot filled with choice cuts of lamb.
- Hos. 1:1-9 – Hosea's wife becomes an immoral woman.
- Hos. 3:1-5 – Hosea redeems his wife from slavery.

The Timeline

- Friday
 - Arrived at Bethany, from Jericho.
 - Sabbath began at sundown.
 - Probably arrived before dark on Friday.
- Saturday
 - The Sabbath.
 - Rested.
 - Possibly went to synagogue.
 - Sabbath ended at sunset.
 - Probably the feast in Jesus' honor, at the home of Simon the leper.

The Timeline

- Sunday
 - The Triumphal Entry
 - Healed in the temple.
 - Prophesied and wept over the destruction of the city.
 - Cased the temple.
 - In the evening, Jesus and the 12 went back to Bethany for the night.

Monday

- Cursing of the fig tree (Matt. 21:18-19; Mark 11:12-14)
- Second Cleansing of the Temple (Matt. 21:12-13; Mark 11:15-18; Luke 19:45-48)
- Request of some Greeks (John 12)



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- I. The Cursing of the Fig Tree (11-14)

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I. The Cursing of the Fig Tree (11-14)

- This miracle of Jesus is unique in two ways...
- 1) It's the last miracle that Jesus Himself will perform in Mark's gospel.
- 2) It is only destructive miracle Jesus ever performed!

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Israel As a Fig Tree

- Jer. 8:13 - "I will surely snatch them away," declares the LORD; "There will be no grapes on the vine And no figs on the fig tree, And the leaf will wither; And what I have given them will pass away.""
- Jer. 24:1-8
- Jer. 29:17 - Thus says the LORD of hosts, "Behold, I am sending upon them the sword, famine and pestilence, and I will make them like split-open figs that cannot be eaten due to rotteness.
- Hos. 9:10, 16 - I saw your forefathers as the earliest fruit on the fig tree in its first season. *But* they came to Baal-peor and devoted themselves to shame, And they became as detestable as that which they loved... Ephraim is stricken, their root is dried up, They will bear no fruit.

Israel As a Fig Tree

- Joel 1:7 - It has made my vine a waste And my fig tree splinters. It has stripped them bare and cast them away; Their branches have become white.
- Micah 7:1 - Woe is me! For I am Like the fruit pickers, like the grape gatherers. There is not a cluster of grapes to eat, Or a first-ripe fig which I crave.
- Cf. A similar image using the vine in Is. 5.

Lessons for Us...

- 1) Never forget that there are two sides to God's character.
- 2) God hates empty, hypocritical worship and will judge it.
 - E.g., Ps. 51:16-17; Is. 29:13; 48:1-2; 58:2-3; 66:1-3; Ezek. 33:31-33; Amos 5:21-24; Micah 6:6-8
 - E.g., Matt. 3:10; 7:19; 15:7-9; John 15:6
- 3) Jesus still invites you to come to Him for forgiveness and eternal life, which He would earn the right to extend on Friday.
 - John 12:31-36, 44-50