

**Introduction:**

- We have spent nearly nine weeks talking about faith. Why? Faith lets us access the things of God. No faith...No access. Great faith....Great Access!
- We have looked at faith in multiple ways: a choice, a work, it's a challenge, it takes a stand, it loves an adventure, it changes the world, is loosed through giving, is a race that we can win. Faith has all these different aspects but, "Why?" Faith gives us access to the things of God.
- Have you ever wondered why Jesus cursed the fig tree? Initially, it doesn't seem fair that Jesus would curse a fig tree.
- Mark 11:11-14; 20-21; 22-25

**I. The Day Jesus Cursed**A. The Context is the Triumphal entry.

1. Passover. Many people are going through the motions of the celebration. IE. Much like our Christmas and Easter.
2. The people were excited about Jesus but they were coming out to usher in their version of the Messiah. A King, one who would deliver Israel from the rulers of the nations. Deliver them from the Gentiles. They were not necessarily looking for a Savior that would save them and the Gentiles.
3. Many of the same people who are praising Him this day will be shouting crucify Him a few days.
4. Jesus arrives, looks around carefully at everything and because it was late he returns to Bethany.

B. The next morning: Jesus was hungry. vs. 12. Desire caused him to look for something...food.

1. He saw a fig tree a ways off and went to it. He expected to find fruit but it was only leaves. The Fig tree is symbolic of Israel. It is seen all through scripture.
2. "In Israel, there are anywhere from two to three crops of figs per year. Each crop cycle goes through the same process. The tree first produces its fruit and **then** leaves form. So if you see a fig tree with its leaves, one can assume its figs have already grown." That was Jesus assumption. It was not the season for fruit to eat but fruit should have been visible.
3. One of main desires that God has is fruit. God is always looking for fruit in our lives.

## C. Now the spiritual reality hits home.

1. For three years Jesus has been preaching repentance. Knowing the love of the Father. Forgiveness, Abiding, and bearing fruit in keeping with repentance. He is looking for fruit! True faith produces fruit! Jesus is looking for fruit to eat but none is ready so He curses the tree. As He looks at Jerusalem He sees:
  - a) False appearances – they want a king but on their terms.
  - b) Hypocrisy - Pharisee claim to be spiritual but they are just the opposite. They are actors.
  - c) Unbelief - they do not see Jesus for who He really is.

- d) In the court of the Gentiles there were money-changers and merchants selling pigeons. These people were preventing the Nations from coming to worship the living God!
3. This lites Jesus up and He starts turning over the tables. Then they leave the city.

## II. The Fig Tree Dies

- A. *"Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits."* (Proverbs 18:21, ESV) Well, this fig tree has no fruit so Jesus lays some heavy words of judgment on it.
- B. Again, *"The next morning..."* the fig tree is found withered. Peter makes the connection. It was Jesus words that killed this tree. He is astonished at the power of Jesus words over a tree in nature.
- C. Peter also had to remember the word of God.
1. *"I will surely consume them. There will be no more harvests of figs and grapes. Their fruit trees will all die. Whatever I gave them will soon be gone. I, the Lord, have spoken!"* (Jeremiah 8:13, NLT)
  2. *"This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies says: "I will send war, famine, and disease upon them and make them like bad figs, too rotten to eat."* (Jeremiah 29:17, NLT)
  3. *"It has destroyed my grapevines and ruined my fig trees, stripping their bark and destroying it, leaving the branches white and bare."* (Joel 1:7, NLT)
  4. (Hos. 2:12; Isa. 34:4; cf. Lk. 13:6-9)
  5. The Word works for those who work the Word! If you work the word you produce fruit.
- D. True Faith produces fruit! Hab 2:4 *"The righteous will live by faith."*

## III. True Faith produces fruit! Hab 2:4 *"The righteous will live by faith."*

- A. The God-kind of faith. Mark 11:22-23
1. God-kind of faith comes from the Word.
  2. When God was creating He was working the Word (Jesus)
  3. Faith comes by hearing the message Ro 10:17
- B. You can say to the mountain...
1. It seems impossible in the natural.
  2. But by faith all things are possible for those who believe.
- C. But you must really believe
- D. When you pray and believe that you have received it, it will be yours.
- E. Make sure you are holding no grudge

## Conclusion:

- Jesus has been know to curse things.
- Let us produce fruit in keeping with repentance.
- May our fruit be evidence of our faith!