

## Matt 21:17-22 Week 65

### Faith and Fig Trees

Matt 21:17 And leaving them, He departed from the city and went out to Bethany and lodged there. 18 In the early dawn the next morning, as He was coming back to the city, He was hungry. 19 And as He saw one single leafy fig tree above the roadside, He went to it but He found nothing but leaves on it [seeing that in the fig tree the fruit appears at the same time as the leaves]. And He said to it, Never again shall fruit grow on you! And the fig tree withered up at once. 20 When the disciples saw it, they marveled greatly and asked, How is it that the fig tree has withered away all at once? 21 And Jesus answered them, Truly I say to you, if you have faith (a firm relying trust) and do not doubt, you will not only do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, Be taken up and cast into the sea, it will be done. 22 And whatever you ask for in prayer, having faith and [really] believing, you will receive. AMP

The Temple leaders had become indignant. The term behind indignant carries the idea of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus condemned their \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_. Instead of praising their holiness, He condemned their \_\_\_\_\_. Instead of acknowledging their religious works as pleasing to God, He condemned them as offensive to God and worthless.

Facts about the ungodly, or the Pharisees of Jesus day:

1. They were enraged by the \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus just gave them at the Temple.
2. The Pharisees hated the \_\_\_\_\_ praise to Christ so they rebuked Christ for receiving it.
3. They were disgusted that rank and \_\_\_\_\_ was given to Christ and not to them by the children.
4. As unbelievers they hated the \_\_\_\_\_ as Messiah that was given to Christ.

Responses by Christ that day:

1. He \_\_\_\_\_ the children's worship of Him.
2. By accepting their praise He admitted the \_\_\_\_\_ about Himself; He was the Messiah.

## The Fig Tree

- The cleansing of the Temple was a denunciation of Israel's \_\_\_\_\_. Their worship was man centered, not God centered. They had works but no wonder and awe.
- The cursing of the fig tree was a denunciation of Israel as a \_\_\_\_\_.
- It was inconceivable to Jews that their Messiah would \_\_\_\_\_ them instead of deliver them, and that He would \_\_\_\_\_ Israel instead of Rome.
- They had no use for such a \_\_\_\_\_ and certainly no use for such a King.

## The Cursing of the Fig Tree

What is the significance of the Temple cleansing and the cursed fig tree?

- The Jewish church, which so visibly abounded with the show of \_\_\_\_\_ profession was all leaves and no fruit.
- Just as the presence of the fig tree was a symbol of \_\_\_\_\_ and prosperity for the nation, its absence would become a symbol of \_\_\_\_\_ and deprivation.
- Jesus' cleansing and cursing showed He would strip away the outward appearance of \_\_\_\_\_ and replace it with \_\_\_\_\_.

## Final Thoughts

- The fig tree represented spiritually dead Israel.
- Its leaves represented Israel's outward religiousness.
- Its lack of fruit represented Israel's spiritual \_\_\_\_\_.
- Fruit is always an indication of salvation, and of a transformed life that operates and cooperates, by \_\_\_\_\_, with the power of God.