

Reflection Questions: Am I fruitful? What fruit am I bearing right now? What fruit of the Spirit is missing from my life? Where is my life just *leafy* and not fruitful? How is my faith right now? My prayer life? My forgiveness of others? What impossible things am I trusting God for today?

How can we pray for one another and our church this week?



Cursing Tree & Clearing Temple

Sermon
Notes

February 18, 2024

1. Fig Tree (12-14)

2. Temple (15-19)

3. Fig Tree (20-25)

Quotes to Ponder

We must carefully cultivate our spiritual roots and not settle for "leaves."

Warren Wiersbe

No one's faith is perfect, unmixed with doubt. But even weak but confidently prayerful faith in the person and power of God is enough to draw down heaven's power.

John MacArthur

*Prayer is not imposing our will on God
but opening up our lives to God's will.*

David Garland

In Jesus we find infinite majesty yet complete humility, perfect justice yet boundless grace, absolute sovereignty yet utter submission, all-sufficiency in Himself yet entire trust and dependence on God.

Timothy Keller

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1. What in the text/sermon impacted you? Encouraged you? Convicted you? Challenged you? Confused you? Comforted you?

2. Read the following accounts, noting what you learn from each. Are there any contradictions? If so, how do you resolve them?

Matthew 21:12-48 —

Mark 11:12-25 —

3. What is unique about the structure of *Mark 11:12-25*?

Why did Mark structure it this way?

4. If someone were to say, *It's weird that Jesus cursed the fig tree just because He was hungry*, how would you respond (*Mark 11:12-14*)?

5. What were the disciples to have learned from this incident (*Mark 11:12-14*)?

6. Was the temple cleansing in *John 2:13-22* the same one as described in *Mark 11:15-18*? Why or why not?

7. Why was Jesus upset when He entered the temple (*Mark 11:15-16*)?

8. How did Jesus explain His actions in *Mark 11:17*?

9. What were the different reactions to Jesus' actions at the temple (*Mark*

11:18)?

10. What is the connection between the cursing of the fig tree and the clearing of the temple?

11. Read *Mark 11:22*. Why did Jesus give this command immediately following the cursing of the fig tree and the cleansing of the temple?

12. What is the difference between trusting God for something He has promised and praying about something you have no specific promise for?

13. How would you describe what it means to follow God by faith?

14. What does Jesus teach in *Mark 11:24*? Explain.

15. What do the following verses teach us about prayer?
Mark 14:36 — *John 15:16* —

John 14:13-14 —

John 16:23-24, 26 —

John 15:7 —

James 4:3 —

16. What does it mean that our faith can move mountains (*Mark 11:23*)?

17. Why is it important to prioritize an attitude and practice of forgiveness toward others?