

Cursing and Cleansing

Mark 11:12-27

Context: After his Palm Sunday entrance into Jerusalem, Jesus spends Monday and Tuesday of the Holy Week addressing the fruitlessness of Israel.

As you observe Jesus in Jerusalem...

1. _____ the barren fig tree (vs. 12-14)

- A. A Jesus' actions here have symbolic importance, signifying the hypocrisy of all who have the appearance that they are bearing fruit but in fact are not. (ESV Study Bible)
- B. The fig tree was frequently an OT type (or symbol) of the Jewish nation (Hos. 9:10; Nah. 3:12; Zech. 3:10), and in this instance Jesus used the tree by the road as a divine object lesson concerning Israel's spiritual hypocrisy and fruitlessness. (MacArthur Study Bible)

2. _____ the righteous anger of Jesus (vs. 15-19)

- A. The psalmist proclaimed, "Holiness adorns Your house" (Ps. 93:5). But unholiness made the temple a place for thieves to hide! The leaders were not praying; they were preying and using religion only to make money. (Warren Wiersbe)
- B. The chief priests refused to accept any currency except shekels minted in Israel. Money changers within the temple precincts gladly exchanged any currency for Jewish shekels at an inflated rate and then pocketed the difference. (Charles Swindoll)

3. _____ a genuine faith (vs. 20-26)

- A. In just a few days, the nation would reject its Messiah, committing the ultimate act of faithlessness. In response, they would be cursed, never to bear fruit again. (Charles Swindoll)
- B. The kind of prayer that moves mountains is prayer for the fruitfulness of God's Kingdom. God will answer your prayers but not as a result of your positive mental attitude. Other conditions must be met: (1) You must be a believer; (2) you must not hold a grudge against another person; (3) you must not pray with selfish motives; (4) your request must be for the good of God's Kingdom. (Life Application Bible Notes)