

MARK 11 vs 12

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In the previous verses, we read Jesus triumphantly entered Jerusalem the day before, surrounded by mobs and multitudes of simple, unpretentious people shouting praise to GOD, while acclaiming the promised Anointed One -- Messiah was arriving: Hosanna! Salvation to God in the highest! How long this procession lasted, it is hard to tell. We know it shook the whole city; it seems like for hours. But Mark tells us that evening, Jesus went to Bethany with the twelve. And in the middle of all this public commotion, Mark inserts these three verses.



Cursing the fig tree,

12 And on the morning, when they came from Bethany,

He was hungry / Jesus was famished; after all that walking back and forth, and apparently, He didn't pack a lunch.

13 And seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves / well, the tree certainly looked healthy. It all seems pretty normal, right? And Jesus, being hungry, sees this fig tree in the distance.

He came if perhaps He might find anything on it / and really, **not anything**; Jesus wasn't looking for bird droppings!

He came if perhaps, He might find any figs on it:



and when He came to it / I bet it sure looked healthy... all those leaves fluttering in the wind, getting His attention. Leaves will appear only after the fruit grows. getting every one's attention, just like Herod's Temple getting everybody's attention: great plans for the next 30 years! You should see all the blueprints: phase one; phase two, phase three – oh, yeah; that was the Romans bull-doing it, wasn't it? It's spectacular.

I bet if you were to compare, that Temple... would make the Vatican look like a lifeless mausoleum. Oh! It already does. Ummm?

Well how about that glorious Christmas at that glass cathedral and all their fabulous flutterings? They got great programs there, don't they? Oh, they closed the doors, that's right! Ummm... who's got the big purpose striven ideas now? The gimmicks for God? Or the christian-crap and jesus-junk folk? The proper churchianity-today people? ... full of life... full of something! Fluttering like those leaves. Like used car salesmen getting everybody's attention; or at least trying.

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Mark writes...

and when He came to it, He found nothing but leaves / what? Now that's a disappointment; I'm sure when the Lord God created apple trees and peach trees and pear trees and banana trees... and plum trees, HE did it... NOT for the leaves. But Jesus found nothing but leaves, on this otherwise healthy-looking tree.

Mark writes...

for it was not the time of figs / now, does that mean it was too early in the growing season? Or maybe it was not a good fig year. You know, prophet Amos was a fig-picker. I bet Amos would have chopped the damn thing down. That's about as worthless a living thing as any. At least it will make good fuel for the fire. I mean a fig-picker is there not to admire the leaves. **He's there to pick the frickin' figs** -- say that 10 times fast!

¹⁴ **And He answered and said to it** / Jesus answered what? No one asked anything. But remember that word means... He sized up the situation before He speaks; and yes, Jesus is going to talk to a tree! But don't let that bother you. **He can talk to nothing, and say, Light be!** And suddenly it is. He's a little different than us, wouldn't you say?

And Jesus said to this worthless fig tree... **May no one eat your fruit ever again.**

And His disciples heard it / clearly, Mark tells us: they heard Him say it!

These three verses are stuffed between Jesus' last visit to the Temple.

So, what are we supposed to learn from this fig tree? Construction on the Temple would continue for 30 more years. The meaning of the Temple wouldn't even last seven more days... as HE, the Lamb slain before the foundation of the world; as HE our High Priest, our ransom payment in full, our propitiation before God, our sin and trespass and peace offering... satisfied in God's sight; our Pacesetter of faith; and Author of salvation... paid for by His blood.

In one week, **those** types and shadows would have come and gone. And He could see in the people their fascination with this building project... that would one day be no longer needed after Messiah left... bull-dozed by the Roman soldiers who took the city.

¹⁵ **And they came to Jerusalem: and Jesus went into the temple, and began to throw out those merchants who sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them who sold doves.**

The day before all we know is He looked around upon everything, and He left. Now, we know why. In the first cleansing of the Temple, John records Jesus saying, **Take these things out of here. Do not make my Father's house, a house of merchandise.** But had they listened? No! As a child, He was always about His Father's business, about His Father's house.

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Mark writes...

16 And would not permit anyone to carry any container through the temple / apparently, they were making those things designated for God, treating them as common place, probably because it was much easier, and more convenient. It would save them the work of going around. And as Dr. Gene Scott often used to say, If you have the choice between easy or hard; take hard!

17 And Jesus taught and said to them, / on every page of scripture we see, Jesus teaching, He knew, **without a changed mind, there would be no changed heart,**

Is it not written / Jesus affirms the authority of scripture for instruction and guidance into all truth; especially over manmade traditions – fabricated in the faulty imaginations of feeble men, which always lead to graven images; lifeless rituals... and idolatry **attempting to replace the Word of God**. A picture might be worth 1000 words; but don't try sending pictures when you are seeking to be rescued from a drowning boat taking on water, in the middle of the sea,

Is it not written, My house will be called: **The House of prayer for all nations**? yet you made **it a den of thieves** / oh, they prayed there. In the next chapter, Mark says, they preyed on the widows... long prayers... to devour their properties.

Mark writes...

18 And the chief priests and scribes heard it, and sought how they might destroy Him / **what church is this?** Matthew Henry says, they were nettled. The chief priests were pricked. I almost said, the chief pricks were priest! Well, that's true also. These chief pricks were nettled, pricked with annoyance and anger; but who cares? They were in error; moving on the path of great danger. What kind of religious leaders were these? Twice in the Temple, these religious leaders already picked up stones to kill Jesus, being incensed with Him, **yet they feared Him, because all the people were astonished at His teaching.**

19 And when evening came, He went out of the city.

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