

The Fruitful Prayer of Faith

Actual Jesus (Gospel of Matthew) – Part 187

Matthew 21:21-22

December 17, 2023

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¹⁸ And in the early morning, while He was going back into the city, He got hungry.

¹⁹ And when He saw *this* one fig tree by the way, He came over to it, and nothing did He find in it except leaves only. And He says to it, “No longer from you let fruit come,¹ ever!” And right away, the fig tree dried up!

²⁰ And when the disciples saw, they marveled, saying, “How did that fig tree dry up right away?”

²¹ And in answer Jesus said to them, “Amen , I say to you, if you have faith, and do not doubt, not only *what was done* to the fig tree will you do, but *instead* even if to this mountain you say, ‘Be picked up and thrown into the sea,’ it will happen!

²² “And all things, as many as you may ask in prayer, believing, you will receive!”

[Pastor Phillips’ ad hoc translation of the Greek text]

Introduction:

I. Foundations from the Texts (vv. 21-22)

A. Jesus’ _____ (v. 21)

1. Having the _____ of Christ: what “_____” means
 - a. Instructed by _____ context
 - b. Instructed by whole-Bible _____
 - c. Instructed by Scriptural _____
 - i. Does the Bible say God’s thoughts and ours are about the same?
Isaiah __:8-9
 - ii. Does the Bible say all of God’s purposes are transparent to us?
Deuteronomy __:29
 - iii. So can I ever *have faith and not doubt*, without a word from God?
Numbers __:19
2. Hearing the words of Christ: what “_____” and “_____” mean

B. Jesus’ _____ (v. 22)

1. Brutal misunderstanding
2. Biblical instruction:
 - a. Jesus words it differently in John __:7

¹ Literally *become, come to be*.

b. Apostle John expands on it in 1 John

3. Blessed and Biblical understanding: *believing* _____ ation

II. The _____ of Prayer

A. Basic Truths

1. Who to Whom?
2. How prayer works
 - a. What we do (Hebrews ___:6)
 - b. What is happening
 - i. **Not:**
 - ii. **But:**

B. Basic Guidelines: Pray from Faith In...

1. ...a _____ (compare John ___:17 and Philippians ___:9)
2. ...a _____ (compare 2 Samuel ___:16 and 25)
3. ...and/or a _____ (compare Acts ___:15 with Romans ___:5, 10, 15)

C. Specific Examples

1. _____
2. _____
3. Christian living