

AUTHORITY AND WISDOM

Pastor Lucas Almeida—Central Baptist Church—April 21st, 2024

Mark 11:12-25

(ESV)

[12] On the following day, when they came from Bethany, he was hungry. [13] And seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to see if he could find anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. [14] And he said to it, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard it.

[15] And they came to Jerusalem. And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold and those who bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. [16] And he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple. [17] And he was teaching them and saying to them, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations'? But you have made it a den of robbers." [18] And the chief priests and the scribes heard it and were seeking a way to destroy him, for they feared him, because all the crowd was astonished at his teaching. [19] And when evening came they went out of the city.

[20] As they passed by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered away to its roots. [21] And Peter remembered and said to him, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree that you cursed has withered." [22] And Jesus answered them, "Have faith in God. [23] Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him. [24] Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. [25] And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses."

INTRODUCTION

A proper response to Christ is one that yields lasting spiritual fruit worthy of eternal life.

John 15:5—[5] *I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.*

JESUS, THE MAN

Jesus, in his humanity, is relatable to us all.

Hebrews 2:17—[17] *Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.*

JESUS, THE ONE TRUE GOD

Jesus is here displaying his supreme authority over creation.

Colossians 1:16—[16] *For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.*

Creation, as Jesus designed, did not have seasons of fruitfulness and seasons of unfruitfulness.

Revelation 22:2—...*also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month.*

The Christian life is not lived with short spurts of faithfulness and long seasons of unfaithfulness.

JESUS, THE JUDGE

Nothing angered Jesus more than the practice of false religion.

1 Samuel 16:7—“*For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.*”

The practice of religion apart from regeneration is anti-gospel, because it creates confusion about what true righteousness is.

Jeremiah 7:11—[11] *Has this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, I myself have seen it, declares the LORD.*

JESUS, THE SAVIOR

Faith is ultimately the fruit Jesus is looking for.

Faith motivates prayer, and prayer is powerful.