

Cultivating Fruitfulness

Matthew 21:12-22

Main Point:

Cultivate greater fruitfulness in your life by seeking the Lord's grace through faith-filled prayer.

1. Many of the Jews in Jesus' day were fruitless.

2. They would be judged for their fruitlessness.

3. We too must be fruitful, lest we be judged as well.

4. Cultivate greater fruitfulness in your life by seeking the Lord's grace through faith-filled prayer.

J.C. Ryle "That fig-tree, full of leaves, but barren of fruit, was a striking emblem of the Jewish Church, when our Lord was upon earth. The Jewish Church had everything to make an outward show: it had the temple, the priesthood, the daily service, the yearly feasts, the Old Testament Scriptures, the courses of the Levites, the morning and evening sacrifice. But beneath these goodly leaves, the Jewish Church was utterly destitute of fruit. It had no grace, no faith, no love, no humility, no spirituality, no real holiness, no willingness to receive its Messiah ..."

John Legg "It [the withering of the fig tree] points to and illustrates his wrath against, and judgment upon, those hypocrites who, while they profess to be his people, his covenant people, do not produce the fruits of praise, worship, submission and righteous obedience."

Matthew 24:1-2 ¹Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. ² And Jesus said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not *one* stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down." (NKJV)

Matthew 3:10b-12 ¹⁰ ... Every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹ "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² "His winnowing fan *is* in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." (NKJV)

Matthew 7:17, 19 ¹⁷ "... Every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit ... ¹⁹ "Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. (NKJV)

John Legg "The King requires faith and obedience, fruit and righteousness, not just form and profession."

Dan Doriani "Faith can move a mountain, not because of the strength of our faith but because of the strength of our Lord."

Romans 6:11 ¹¹ Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (NKJV)

Matthew 7:7 ⁷ "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. (NKJV)

John Broadus "One may be a truly industrious man, and yet poor in temporal things; but one cannot be a truly praying man, and yet poor in spiritual things."

J.C. Ryle "Let us be sure that no time is so well spent in every day as that which we spend upon our knees."

Hebrews 4:15-16 ¹⁵ For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin. ¹⁶ Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (NKJV)