

HE FOUND NOTHING BUT LEAVES

Text:

Matthew 21:18-19: Jesus and the Fig Tree

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Now in the morning as He returned into the city, He hungered.

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And when He saw a fig tree in the way, He came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, "Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever. And presently the fig tree withered away."

Matthew 13:28: *Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is near:*



Mark 11:12-13:

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And on the morrow, when they were come from Bethany, He [Jesus] was hungry:

¹³ And seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, He [Jesus] came, if haply He might find any thing thereon: and when He came to it, He found nothing but leaves; for the time of figs was not yet.

Luke 13:6 *He spake also this parable; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none.*

This solitary instance of stern judgment wrought by our Savior is a lesson which must be filled with meaning. If there is but one curse, where does it fall? What is its symbolic teaching?

I do not know that I ever feel more solemnly the need of true faithfulness before God than when I declare the meaning of this parable of miraculous significance.

The curse, you at once perceive, falls in its metaphorical and spiritual meaning upon those high professors who are destitute of true holiness upon those (high

professors) who manifest a great show of leaves, but who bring no fruit forth unto God. Only one curse for boasting pretenders and hypocrites will show what they are and were.



***May the Blood and the Spirit of Jesus Christ
search our hearts,
lest we be found wanting,
and miss the translation of the saints.***

We will and must bear in mind that there were many trees with leaves only upon them, yet only this fig tree was cursed by our Lord. It is the nature of many trees to yield nothing but shade. The hungering Savior did not resort to the oak or the elm to look for food, nor to a pine for refreshment for they never pretended to be a fruit-bearing tree.

So, dear friends, there are men whose lives bear leaves, but no fruit; and yet almighty patience bears with man, even you, as yet. You are allowed to live out your time. Go and take down the sign if you are not bearing the fruit of a Christian. If there is no reality of Christ in your soul, better take down the profession than by pretense drive hungry souls away from Christ by an unattractive, time-serving show. I am sick and tired of the profession of faith, claiming sanctification and baptism of the Spirit. You are badly mistaken if you think profession will save. You will find out, at least before this service ends, that there is an orthodox road to Hell as well as the broad road.

God says in His Word:

Matthew 3:10: And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

Stopping short of vital union with our Lord Jesus by real living faith, and being led of the Spirit, we will miss the qualifications for entering Heaven. The time is not yet come when these mere head-knowers, false professors with no fruit, no figs, will be shown up. For most of them, their testimony comes only from the throat up; not

from the heart. For if it came from the heart, it would be boiling; but now it hangs like icicles from their lips. Jesus says in:

Matthew 15:8: This people draweth nigh unto Me with their mouth, and honoureth Me with their lips; but their heart is far from Me.

Jesus found no fruit. The husbandman, in loving kindness, still comes seeking fruit year after year. Beware, the edge of the ax is sharp, and the arm of the Almighty is wielding it. If no fruit, then one will be cut off as a dead branch and cast into the fire.

Here is a parable the Holy Spirit reveals in Matthew 13:

The Parable of the Tares of the Field

Matthew 13:37-43:

³⁷ He that soweth the good seed is the Son of Man;

³⁸ The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;

³⁹ The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.

⁴⁰ As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.

⁴¹ The Son of man shall send forth His angels, and they shall gather out of His Kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;

⁴² And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

⁴³ Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

In the explanation of this special case of the fig tree, the fruit comes before the leaves. So is the true Christian; fruit always, before profession. Find a man anywhere who is a true servant of God, and before he united himself with the church, he testified with a ring and glow and fire. We must expect it.

Shall the Spirit of God work in man's heart to produce trifles? Do you think that Jesus would have written their names in the Book of Life just to produce an old no-account, good-for-nothing hypocrite? Like Jezebel with her paint which made her all the uglier, they would soon seem to be what they are not.

Christ, the head of the Church, will bring the judgment upon the fruitlessness. Note how Jesus met the unfaithful stewards and the foolish virgins in those parables.

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