

Knowing Jesus through Miracles
Jesus, the Judge
Mark 11:12-14; 20-26

Observation

- During the Passover season (Middle of April), in Palestine fig trees produce edible buds followed by the appearance of large green leaves signifying the approach of summer.
- Absence of buds with only leaves is an indicator that there will not be any fruit for the rest of the season
- The reasons for buds falling off: hail storm, extreme snow in March, or other natural calamities
- It was reasonable for Jesus to expect to find something edible on the fig tree at this season

Symbolic Meaning

- Jesus' cursing of the tree was not an angry reaction at the barren tree, but it was a dramatic symbolic action of what was going to happen to Israel shortly **AND** to teach His disciples the need for faith and persistence in prayer to be fruitful
- Lush green attractive tree symbolized the nation Israel (Jer 8:13 & Hos 9:10)
- To view from far the tree looked laden with fruit, but it was bankrupt of any fruit
- This happened despite the consistent careful attention of the LORD
- There was no dearth for religious activities: Temple, the Word, the Priest, the rituals, the festivals, etc.
- Their claim was totally inconsistent with their life—a complete failure in the part of the nation Israel
- **This incident presents Jesus as the Judge** (in about 30 years following this incident, the nation Israel along with the Temple was destroyed by the Romans)

How does the passage affect us today?

- Are you guilty of false advertising/projection of yourself?
- Are you covering up your spiritual bankruptcy with external spirituality?

- What is causing your fruit to shed? Internal or external?
- **Jesus suggests that the disciple could become what Israel had become—i.e., a fruitless deceptive people**

TAKE AWAY

- Cultivate carefully your spiritual roots, so that you will bear fruits AND avoid settling for mere leaves