

LARGE PRINT
FRUITFUL AND CLEAN (Mark 11:12-21)
February 9, 2025

TEXT—Mark 11:12-21

MAIN IDEA—Only Christ can bring about a transformation of life that makes a person fruitful and clean.

MEMORY VERSE(Jn.15:16).

THE CURSED FIG TREE (Mk. 11:12-14)—The day after the Lord's triumphal entry, He returned to Jerusalem coming from Bethany. On the way to the holy city, He stopped to get some food from a fig tree (i.e. a common source of nourishment). The fig tree has leaves but no figs, so the Lord cursed the tree. On the surface it seems that the Lord harshly cursed the tree, but in reality, the lack of fruit on the tree pointed to a deeper problem which was the

lack of spiritual fruit in Israel who rejected Jesus Christ, the True Vine, and only source of eternal life.

Heb.2:14-15

2 Cor.8:9

William MacDonald (1917-2007)—*When Jesus came to the nation of Israel, there were leaves, which speak of profession, but there was no fruit for God. There was promise without fulfillment, profession without reality. Jesus was hungry for fruit from the nation. Because there was no early fruit, He knew that there would be no later fruit from that unbelieving people, and so He cursed the fig tree. This prepictured the judgment which was to fall on Israel in A.D. 70.*

*The cursing of the tree was a symbolic act of judgment that would be further demonstrated in the cleansing of the temple.

Lk.19:41-44

*We are called to be fruitful in Christ (**John 15:4-8, 16**). *God calls Christians for to bear the fruit of repentance and faith (**Mt.3:8**). Real faith in Christ leads to Christ like fruit (**Mt.7:16-20; Gal.5:22-26**).

THE CLEANSED TEMPLE (Mk.11:15-21)—

The previous night Jesus entered the temple and looked around at everything (**Mk.11:11**). Now the time had come for the King to bring judgment against the evil he saw hidden in their outward rituals.

*The temple was a huge complex consisting of several inner courts. There was the ‘**inner court**’ (Holy of Holies and the Holy Place) only meant for members of the priesthood. There

was the '**Court of Israel**' meant for Jewish men to offer sacrifices. Then there was the '**Court of Women**' that meant for Jewish women to worship, and finally there was the '**Court of the Gentiles**', which was a marketplace used for selling souvenirs, sacrificial animals, food and exchanging money.

Jer.7:11

Jn.4:23-24

*When the Lord sees our worship what does He see in: our hearts, our bible reading, our praying, our singing, our giving, our fellowshiping, and our believing? Does He see passionate LOVE for Him and others?

Heb.1:8-9; 1 Cor.10:31

Heb.10:19-22