

saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.” (Mark 11:22-23)

This passage reflects a total reliance on **faith**. In the Old Covenant, faith was demonstrated in **self-effort** attempts to obey. The New Covenant is entirely dependent upon **Jesus** and focuses on **death to self**.

Faith in the pleasures of this world will let you down.

Faith in religious systems and the success (failure) of self-effort will let you down.

Only faith in **Jesus Christ** will not bring failure!

No more Temple...no more fig tree...ONLY JESUS!

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#### Praying And Forgiving

*“Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye **pray, believe** that ye **receive** them, and ye shall have them. (25) And when ye stand praying, **forgive**, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may **forgive you** your trespasses. (26) But if ye **do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.**” (Mark 11:24-26)*

Faith and forgiveness is the emphasis of this passage. Jesus continues His teaching on faith by telling us that whatever we request from God, if we believe we shall receive it.

True **faith** requires acting upon God’s Word and the leading of the Holy Spirit. However, many Scriptures reveal that this is not a magic formula to get what you want. Here are a couple of them.

*“And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth*

*us.” (1 John 5:14)*

*“Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.” (James 4:3)*

Genuine **faith** moves in the illumination of the infinite debt of sin against God that Jesus has paid. Because of His sacrifice, we have been forgiven. Therefore, if we do not forgive others, we are not moving in faith.

Harboring unforgiveness against others assures us that our prayers will not be answered.

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Conclusion:

Just as the **fig tree** and the **Temple** held promises of nutrition (physical and spiritual), our lives also have the promise of nourishment for others around us. Both believers and unbelievers alike should benefit from the life of **Jesus** in us.

Christ in us will NOT fail to bring fruit through our lives. However, we can fail to allow Him to do so.

With God’s help, let’s not be like the **Temple** or the **fig tree!**

*“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. (5) I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same **bringeth forth much fruit**: for without me ye can do nothing. (6) If a man abide not in me, **he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.**” (John 15:4-6)*

Fruit or fire?

What is your choice?

Transformed Living Messages by Robert Dallmann
ChristLife
PO Box 1033, Niagara Falls, NY 14304
Ph: (716) 622-7320
E-mail: Christlife@Christ-like.net
Visit us at www.Christ-like.net

Cursed Fig Tree Lessons

By: Robert Dallmann

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#### Jesus Curses The Fig Tree

*“And on the morrow, when they were come from Bethany, **he was hungry**: (13) And seeing a fig tree afar off **having leaves**, he 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. (14) And Jesus answered and said unto it, **No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever.** And his disciples heard it.” (Mark 11:12-14)*

Why did Jesus pronounce a curse on this tree?

This question is both valid and important. First, the passage clearly says that it was not the season for figs, so why did Jesus say what He said?

Even though it was not yet fig season, the tree had leaves. The fruit of the fig tree ripens **before** the large leaves appear. In this case, the tree had leaves but no fruit.

The fig tree with leaves offered the promise of life-giving nourishment, but it produced no fruit. Perhaps Jesus had something like this in mind when He cursed the tree.

*“And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: **every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.**” (Luke 3:9)*

# CURSED FIG TREE LESSONS

It is possible that this tree was a visual parable of what Jesus was to do next.

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Jesus Cleanses The Temple

*“And they come to Jerusalem: and Jesus went into the temple, and **began to cast out** them that sold and bought **in the temple**, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves; (16) And would not suffer that any man should carry any vessel through the temple. (17) And he taught, saying unto them, Is it not written, **My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer?** but ye have made it a den of thieves. (18) And the scribes and chief priests heard it, and **sought how they might destroy him: for they feared him**, because all the people was astonished at his doctrine.”*
(Mark 11:15-18)

Following the cursing of the fig tree, Jesus and the disciples entered Jerusalem and went to the Temple. Jesus was furious with the mockery of His Father and His Father’s house, the Temple.

Jesus overturned the tables of the money changers and drove out those that were selling sacrifices.

He preached harshly against the religious leaders, to the point that they looked for ways to destroy Jesus. They were afraid of Jesus and what His popularity amongst the people might do to their positions of power and esteem.

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## The Fig Tree Parable

The sequence of events leads one to see the fig tree as a visual parable of what happened in the Temple.

The fig tree held out the promise of life and nourishment, physical life... food!

The Temple was supposed to be a source of spiritual life, a place of prayer and fellowship with God. The Temple offered the promise of spiritual life and growth... spiritual food!

The fig tree was barren and gave nothing but broken promises. It had leaves and looked good but offered no food for physical health.

The Temple was likewise barren and full of broken promises. The Temple looked good but provided no assistance for spiritual health.

The fig tree was cursed and would never be a source of nutrition again.

The Temple was cursed and would never be spiritually fruitful again.

Jesus is **the source** of our spiritual health and well-being. He is also **the source** and supply of all of our physical needs. In reality, **Jesus is our all-in-all! He is all we need!**

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The Dead Tree

*“And when even was come, he went out of the city. (20) And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the **fig tree dried up from the roots**. (21) And Peter calling to remembrance saith unto him, **Master, behold, the fig tree which thou cursedst is withered away.**”*
(Mark 11:19-21)

Jesus and the disciples left Jerusalem in the evening, and upon returning in the morning, Peter pointed out the dead fig tree. The acknowledgement of the withered tree is the culmination of the visual parable.

The tree was “**dried up from the roots.**” This fact validates the powerful curse Jesus made. The tree was not partially dead. Its existence was not temporarily halted, but as Jesus stated: “**No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever.**”

This tree is an image of what took place in the Temple. The Old Covenant, the Temple rituals, the laws, etc., no

longer offer any life-sustaining fruit...**forever!** No spiritual fruit is to be found in the Old Covenant for those who have **embraced Jesus, the New Covenant.**

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## What This Does Not Mean

This does **not** mean that the Old Covenant is not needed any longer. It does not mean that there is no value in studying the Old Testament. There is tremendous value in that these things are examples for believers. They are not examples that Christians must adhere to, but they exemplify and reveal the character and nature of God.

Here is some of what the Old Covenant is intended to do:

*“Now these things were our examples, to the **intent we should not lust after evil things**, as they also lusted.”* (1 Corinthians 10:6)

*“Wherefore the **law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ**, that we might be justified by faith. (25) But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.”* (Galatians 3:24-25)

There is great value in the Old Covenant, but it must be taken in context. The value is in the examples of God’s interactions with His people and in converting the soul.

There is **no value** in trying to keep the law. In the New Covenant, we are told to be **led by the Holy Spirit**, and we are never instructed to be led by the law.

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Commentary On Faith

*“And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have **faith in God**. (23) For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and **shall not doubt in his heart**, but shall believe that those things which he*