"Nothing But Leaves"

Mark 11:12-14

What Jesus Sought And What He Seeks

▶ Of the fig tree – Fruit.

 Nature of fig trees: "On this kind of tree the fruit forms before the leaves and should be full grown before the leaves appear; so this tree, by putting on its foliage before the time for figs, was proclaiming itself superior to all other fig trees. This made it a striking symbol of the hypocrite, who, not content with appearing to be as good as other people, usually puts on the appearance of being a great deal better." (J.W. McGarvey)

What Jesus Sought And What He Seeks

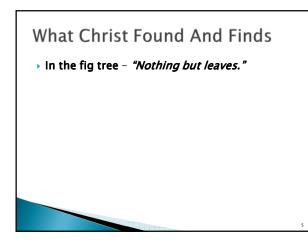
• Of the Jewish nation - Fruit.

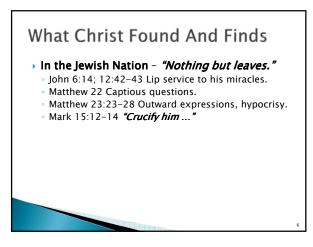
- Israel was a "special people." Deuteronomy 7:6 Exodus 19:5-6
- He had cared for and protected them. Genesis 12:1-3; Genesis 37-50
- He had delivered them from bondage of Egypt.
 Exodus 12.
- $^\circ$ Brought them into the promised land. Joshua 3-4

What Jesus Sought And What He Seeks

• Of Christians today - Fruit.

- Spiritual Israel a special people. 1 Peter 2:5,9
- Branch to be fruitful. John 15:2-5
- New Creation. 2 Corinthians 5:17
- The likeness and image of Christ. 1 Peter 2:21; Galatians 2:20; Colossians 3:10
 Holy character. 1 Peter 1:14-15
- Self denial. Matthew 16:24
- Self denial. Matthew 16:24





What Christ Found And Finds

 In Christians today – "Nothing but leaves."
 <u>We profess to</u> "speak where the Bible speaks." 1 Peter 4:11

Necessitates study. 2 Timothy 2:15; 1 Peter 3:15

What Christ Found And Finds In Christians today - "Nothing but leaves." We profess to worship. Observe the Lord's Supper every Lord's day. Acts 20:7 Communion with the Lord. 1 Corinthians 10:16-17 Communion with other Christians. 1 Corinthians 11:17ff; Edify. 1 Corinthians 14:26 Need to assemble. Hebrews 10:24-25; Psalms 122:1 Sing! Teach and admonish. Ephesians 5:19 Need to talk to the Lord! Philippians 4:4-6; 1 Peter

5:6; Hebrews 4:14-16

What Christ Found And Finds • In Christians today - "Nothing but leaves." • We teach forgiveness, but harbor ill will. Matthew 5:23; 18:15 Examples: • The prodigal son's father - Luke15:20-24. • The sinner in Corinth - 2 Corinthians2:5-8. • David. • David. • Prodig. • Peter.

