

“Nothing But Leaves”

Mark 11:12-14

1

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)

2

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.
- Brought them into the promised land. Joshua 3-4

3

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

4

What Christ Found And Finds

▶ In the fig tree – *“Nothing but leaves.”*

5

What Christ Found And Finds

▶ In the Jewish Nation – *“Nothing but leaves.”*

- John 6:14; 12:42-43 Lip service to his miracles.
- Matthew 22 Captious questions.
- Matthew 23:23-28 Outward expressions, hypocrisy.
- Mark 15:12-14 *“Crucify him ...”*

6

What Christ Found And Finds

- ▶ In Christians today – ***“Nothing but leaves.”***
 - We profess to “speak where the Bible speaks.”
1 Peter 4:11
 - Necessitates study. 2 Timothy 2:15; 1 Peter 3:15

7

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

8

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 – Luke 15:20–24.
 - The sinner in Corinth – 2 Corinthians 2:5–8.

9

What Christ Found And Finds

- ▶ In Christians today – ***“Nothing but leaves.”***
 - We teach repentance, but often only regret. *metanoia* – “a change of mind for the better, heartily to AMEND with abhorrence of one’s past sins.” (Thayer, 405)
- ▶ Acts 17:30–31, *“The times of ignorance therefore God overlooked; but now he commandeth men that they should all everywhere repent”*
 - David. Psalms 51
 - Prodigal. Luke 15
 - Peter. Luke 22

10

What Christ Did And Will Do

- ▶ **To the fig tree.**
 - Cursed it and it withered away forever.
- ▶ **To the Jewish Nation.**
 - Scattered to the four winds of the earth. cf. Joshua 23:14–16; 2 Kings 17–18; Jeremiah 25:8–11
- ▶ **To Christians.**
 - Cut off. John 15:1–6

11

“There’s A Great Day Coming”

- ▶ Is your life empty and barren ... or fruitful?
- ▶ Are you simply a great show of leaves ... or fruitful?
- ▶ What will He say?
 - **Matthew 25:23, “Well done, good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will set thee over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy lord.”**
 - **Matthew 25:41, “Depart from me, ye cursed, into the eternal fire which is prepared for the devil and his angels.”**

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