

Speaker: Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam
 Title: Pray Believing
 Text: Mark 11:24

(Mark 11:24)

Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

(Mark 11:12-14; 20-26)

12 Now the next day, when they had come out from Bethany, He was hungry. 13 And seeing from afar a fig tree having leaves, He went to see if perhaps He would find something on it. When He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. 14 In response Jesus said to it, "Let no one eat fruit from you ever again." And His disciples heard it.

20 Now in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. 21 And Peter, remembering, said to Him, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree which You cursed has withered away." 22 So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God. 23 For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. 24 Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them. 25 "And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. 26 But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses."

INTRODUCTION

Jesus uses the fig tree to teach two valuable lessons.

- We are to be fruitful (Vs. 12-14)
- There are conditions for God's power to operate through praying and believing (Vs. 20-26)

(Mark 11:12-14)

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GOD IS SERIOUS ABOUT BEING A FRUITFUL BELIEVER

Other teachings that show we are to be profitable believers:

- The parable of the talents (Luke 19:20-27)
- The parable of the sower (Luke 8:4-8)

The Fig Tree

(Mark 11:13)

And seeing from afar a fig tree having leaves, He went to see if perhaps He would find something on it. When He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs (V. 13)

- The tree appeared matured enough to bear fruit though it was early in the season. It gave an appearance of fruitfulness but in reality was barren

TALK WITHOUT THE WALK

The Bible says much about profession without possession.

(Matthew 23:28)

“Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.”

(2 Timothy 3:5)

“having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!”

(Titus 1:16)

“They profess to know God, but in works they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.”

HE WAS HUNGRY

(Mark 11:12)

“Now the next day, when they had come out from Bethany, He was hungry.”

Christ's hunger is for us to bear fruit.

- Jesus' teaching on fruit-bearing

(John 15:5 & 8)

5 “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. 8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

- There are 2 types of fruits (Romans 6:21-22)
 - (Romans 6:21)

“21 What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death” - *The fruit of shame and death*
 - (Romans 6:22)

But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life – *The fruit of holiness and everlasting life*

- The secret to bearing the right kind of fruit

(Romans 7:4)

“Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another—to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God.”

- “dead to the law” – self-righteousness
- “married to another” – Christ and dead to self
- Death frees us from the law of sin and allows us to be married to Christ who is grace.
- Walk and talk can be accomplished

(Hebrews 13:15)

“Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.”

JESUS RULED CONDEMNATION AGAINST HYPOCRISY OR UNFRUITFULNESS

(Mark 11:14)

“In response Jesus said to it, “Let no one eat fruit from you ever again.” And His disciples heard it.”

(Hebrews 6:8)

“but if it bears thorns and briers, it is rejected and near to being cursed, whose end is to be burned.”

(John 15:6)

“If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.”

CONCLUSION: GOD IS BOTH GOOD AND SEVERE

(Romans 11:22)

“Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off.”