

## Fruit And Faith: Matthew 21:18-22.

### I. (18-19) Fruit.

In a dramatic way, Jesus performed one of His few *destructive* miracles. His curse made the **fig tree** to wither away. He came looking for fruit but there was none. Essentially, the tree was a picture of false advertising, having **leaves**, but no figs. Fruit is continuously looking like Jesus and allowing Him to work through us...

*Jude 1:12 - These are spots in your love feasts, while they feast with you without fear, serving only themselves. They are clouds without water, carried about by the winds; late autumn trees without fruit, twice dead, pulled up by the roots...*

*2 Peter 1:2-4 - Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

*Psalms 92:12-15 - The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those who are planted in the house of the LORD Shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh and flourishing, to declare that the LORD is upright; He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.*

*John 15:4 - "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.*

*John 15:7-8 - "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. "By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.*

## II. Faith (20-22).

He explained that this miracle was really the result of a prayer made in faith (**and do not doubt**). He then encouraged His marveling disciples to also have this kind of faith, trusting that God would hear them also.

1 Corinthians 12:9 - to another **faith** by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit,

Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

*Faith is the ability to trust [Him whom] we cannot see, and with faith we are freed from the flimsy enclosures of life...John Emmons.*

Luke 17:5-6 - And the apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith." So the Lord said, "If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

Matthew 8:9-10 - "For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "**Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!**

Act 6:8 - And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people.

Romans 10:17 - So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

***The more we know of God, the more unreservedly we will trust him... the simpler and more childlike will be our faith. J. G. Machen.***

Luke 18:8 - "I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?"

2 Corinthians 5:7 - For we walk by faith, not by sight.