

## “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.**
  - He had a right to expect it because Jehovah had made Israel a “special people” unto Himself. Deuteronomy 7:6; Exodus 19:5-6; Deuteronomy 26:19
  - 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

### 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; Romans 6:1-4; Ephesians 4:17-24; Titus 2:11-12; Colossians 3:1-2
  - The likeness and image of Christ. Philippians 2:5, 19-21; 1 Peter 2:21; Galatians 2:20 Colossians 3:10
  - Holy character. 1 Peter 1:14-15
  - Self denial. Matthew 16:24

### What Christ Found And Finds

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

### 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.
  - Acts 7 Stubbornness & rejection.
  - Mark 15:12-14 “Crucify him...”

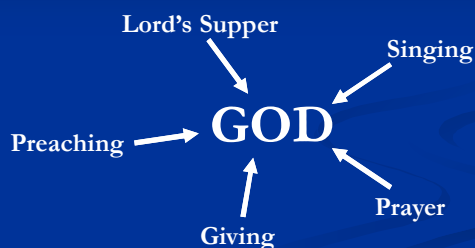
## What Christ Found And Finds

- In Christians today – *“Nothing but leaves.”*
  - We profess to *“speak where the Bible speaks.”* 1 Peter 4:11
    - Necessitates knowing how God speaks to us. Acts 15
    - Examples. Cain, Nadab & Abihu, King Uzziah, etc.
    - Necessitates study. Colossians 3:16; 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 & admonish. Ephesians 5:19
    - Need to talk to the Lord! Philippians 4:4-6; 1 Peter 5:6; Hebrews 4:14-16; 7:25; cf. Joshua 3:11-13

## ■ Worship Honors God – John 4:24



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## What Christ Found And Finds

- In Christians today – *“Nothing but leaves.”*
    - We teach forgiveness, but harbor ill will. Matthew 5:23; 18:15
- Examples:
- Joseph forgave his brothers – Genesis 45:5-15; 50:19,20.  
 David forgave Saul – 1 Samuel 24:9-22.  
 The prodigal son’s father – Luke 15:20-24.  
 The sinner in Corinth – 2 Corinthians 2:5-8.

## 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; David Psalms 51. Luke 15 Prodigal Luke 22 Peter. Acts 9:9 Saul.
  - “It is easy to bring a man to the river of regret, but you cannot always make him drink of the water of repentance.”

## What Christ Did & 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 3:14-16; 2 Kings 17-18; Jeremiah 25:8-11
- To Christians.
  - Cut off. John 15:1-6

## Conclusion

- Is your life empty and barren ... or fruitful?
- Are you simply a great show of leaves ... or fruitful?
- 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"