

JESUS WILL JUDGE THOSE WHO PUT ON A SHOW OF WORSHIP AND OBEDIENCE WHILE REVEALING THEIR TRUE CHARACTER THROUGH A LACK OF SPIRITUAL FRUIT

V18-19 JESUS IS RETURNING TO JERUSALEM AND ALONG THE WAY JESUS BECOMES HUNGRY AND HE SEES A FIG TREE GROWING BY THE ROAD JESUS ASSUMES THE TREE HAD FRUIT WHEN HE SAW IT'S LEAVES BUT THE LEAVES SENT A FALSE MESSAGE THERE WAS NO FRUIT

JESUS SAYS TO THE TREE NO LONGER SHALL THERE BE ANY FRUIT FROM YOU THIS IS THE ONLY DESTRUCTIVE MIRACLE ATTRIBUTED TO JESUS AND THE TREE IMMEDIATELY IT BEGINS TO WITHER

IN THE PRECEDING PASSAGE JESUS HAD PRONOUNCED JUDGMENT ON ISRAEL MATT 21:12-13 FOR THEIR BEHAVIOR IN THE TEMPLE WITH THE FIG TREE JESUS ACTED OUT A PARABLE TO ILLUSTRATE THE REALITY OF ISRAEL'S FRUITLESSNESS

JUST AS THE LEAVES OF THE FIG TREE ADVERTISED FRUIT SO THE JEWISH LEADERS CLAIMED TO BE FULFILLING GOD'S PURPOSE HOWEVER THAT WAS A LIE UNDER THE LEAVES OF THEIR SHOWY RELIGION THEIR HEARTS WERE BARREN AND UNBELIEVING

THEY HAD MISSED THEIR OPPORTUNITY TO REPENT AND BEAR TRUE FRUIT SO JESUS PRONOUNCED THEIR JUDGMENT THEIR TIME WAS UP THEY WOULD EXPERIENCE THE JUDGMENT OF GOD

V20-21 SEEING THE FIG TREE WITHER THE DISCIPLES WERE AMAZED SEEING THE FIG TREE WITHER BEFORE THEIR EYES SO THEY ASK HOW COULD THE FIG TREE WITHER ALL AT ONCE JESUS USED THIS AS A TEACHABLE MOMENT

ANY BELIEVER WITH TRUE FAITH CAN DO GREAT THINGS BY DRAWING ON THE POWER OF GOD FAITH IS THE BASIS FOR ANSWERED PRAYER HEB 11:6

JESUS SAID TRULY I SAY TO YOU THE NECESSITY IS FAITH TAKING GOD AT HIS WORD THE OPPOSITE OF THAT IS DOUBT JESUS SAYS THAT THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO DO WHAT WAS DONE TO THE FIG TREE AND MORE IF THEIR FAITH WAS IN THE POWER OF GOD

JESUS AND HIS DISCIPLES WERE PROBABLY CROSSING THE MOUNT OF OLIVES AS HE APPROACHED JERUSALEM JESUS PROBABLY POINTED TO THE MOUNT WHEN HE SAID THIS MOUNTAIN GIVING THE DISCIPLES A VISUAL IMAGE THAT ILLUSTRATED THE POWER OF GOD AVAILABLE TO THE PERSON WITH TRUE FAITH

THE MOUNTAIN MOVING FAITH JESUS IS TALKING ABOUT IS THINGS THAT ARE IMPOSSIBLE FOR MEN ARE POSSIBLE WITH GOD FOR THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN THE WILL OF GOD HIS WILL WILL BE DONE

TRUE FAITH IS ALWAYS IN KEEPING WITH GOD'S WILL AND IS BASED ON INTIMACY WITH GOD AND AN UNDERSTANDING OF HIS HEART AND WILL

V22 JESUS CLOSING COMMENT REINFORCED THE POWER OF GOD IN RESPONSE TO FAITH PRAYER IS AN EXPRESSION OF OUR POWERLESSNESS AND DEPENDENCE ON GOD THE WEAKER WE REALIZE WE ARE THE GREATER THE WORKING OF GOD'S POWER THROUGH US 2COR 12:7-10

THE MATURE BELIEVER HAS STRENGTH THAT COMES FROM GOD THE BELIEVER IN HUMBLE DEPENDENCE BECOMES A VESSEL OF GOD'S POWER

A PERSON WHO ASK IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOD'S DESIRE WILL HAVE HIS REQUEST GRANTED THE FAITH JESUS IS TALKING ABOUT HERE IS AN ATTITUDE OF SUBMISSION TO HIS WILL CONFIDENCE IN HIS WISDOM AND ASSURANCE OF HIS LOVE

THIS IS FAITH THAT THE FATHER CAN TAKE OUR REQUEST AND SORT THEM OUT ACCORDING TO OUR BEST INTEREST AND HIS GLORY SUCH A FAITH IS TO SHARE THE MIND OF CHRIST TO DESIRE HIS DESIRES