

Living a Lie

Mark 11:1-11

“Now when they drew near Jerusalem, to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, He sent two of His disciples; and He said to them, “Go into the village opposite you; and as soon as you have entered it you will find a colt tied, on which no one has sat. Loose it and bring it. And if anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord has need of it,’ and immediately he will send it here.” So they went their way, and found the colt tied by the door outside on the street, and they loosed it. But some of those who stood there said to them, “What are you doing, loosing the colt?” And they spoke to them just as Jesus had commanded. So they let them go. Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their clothes on it, and He sat on it. And many spread their clothes on the road, and others cut down leafy branches from the trees and spread them on the road. Then those who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: “Hosanna! ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!’ Blessed is the kingdom of our father David That comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!” And Jesus went into Jerusalem and into the temple. So when He had looked around at all things, as the hour was already late, He went out to Bethany with the twelve.”

We are celebrating the day we call “Palm Sunday”

- **The “Triumphal Entry”**
- **Where Jesus, the humble, Teacher, Servant Leader**
- **Publicly demonstrates His position as King**
- **Riding on a donkey to fulfill the prophecy...**
- **Multitudes crying out Hosanna, (Save us now)!!**
- **Covering the road with palm leaves and clothing recognizing His majestic role and demonstrating their submission to His authority**

And, all this time, Jesus knowing that 5 days later He would face the cross for our sins...

Yet Jesus didn’t waste a minute... His last days were spent teaching and preparing His disciples for the establishment of His Church

- **That’s what I would like to talk about today**
- **Jesus in His final days on Earth, some of the wisdom He shared**

And the first lesson we see in a unique one concerning

- **A fig tree...**

Mark 11:12-14

“Now the next day, when they had come out from Bethany, He was hungry. 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**. In response Jesus said to it, “Let no one eat fruit from you ever again.” And His disciples heard it.”

When I first read this verse, I found it very perplexing...

- So I decided to study into it.

In Israel, there are seven species of Fig Trees;

Trying to figure which tree this was in question can be difficult

- The different species produce fruit at different times
- Four of them would be out of the question; they produce later in summer/fall...
- The other three... it would still be a little early

The interesting thing about this verse is what was stated:

- **“for it was not the season for figs“**
- Why would Jesus curse a tree for not having figs...?
- When it’s not the season?

If you study this a little, you will find that it was still six weeks till the season these figs should be harvested....

But regardless of what kind of fig tree it is, or when it’s ready for harvest...

All fig trees have one thing in common...

- **A fig tree produces fruit before it produces leaves...**
- Not the lush, sweet tasting fruit...
- A small fruit called “taqsh”, tasted like a raw vegetable
- Was often eaten by peasants as well as travelers with no other food
- These would fall off when the fig began to bud...

So why Jesus cursed the fig tree had nothing to do with the season...

- The fig tree gave the public perception that it was bearing fruit...
- It was full of leaves, which would mean it was bearing fruit

But in fact,

- The tree was a liar!!!
- The fig tree was living a lie...
- Presenting itself as something it was not!!!

It's like that old saying about putting "lipstick on a pig"...

- It may look pretty
- But it's still a pig...

Jesus was able to see through the tree....

- See through the false image...
- See through the charade....
- He is The Way, The Truth, and The Life!!!
- And there is no lie, no false image that He cannot see through

Do you think maybe, just maybe,

- Jesus could have been using this fig tree as an example
- An example of people...?
- Do you think people ever try to pretend to be something their not?

Think about this:

As we just saw how Jesus came into the city in this public display of authority

- All the people shouting and declaring love and loyalty
- Some of those same people who publicly proclaimed "Hosanna"
- Would be shouting "Crucify Him" some 5 days later...
- Don't you think that Jesus could see through them?
- See the leaves, but no fruit...
- See their hearts/ presenting themselves as something they were not

Now I believe that this is also an example for us to see that we can't hide anything from Jesus...

- Regardless of the show we put on
- Regardless of the public image we promote
- We can we are the t-shirt, have the bumper sticker
- Jesus sees the truth
- And He's looking for fruit...

Maybe it's a great lesson for the church...

- The Bible speaks about the Fruit of The Spirit:

Galatians 5:22-23

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.”

This is an example of what the character of every Christian should be

- It's not about how we look...
- But it's about what we do
- Are we bearing and producing fruit...
- Or are we all leaves....

We have to be careful not to become like the people we are warned of in:

2 Timothy 3:5

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

Jesus doesn't want fake...

- He wants real
- He wants the real you....
- Not based on someone's expectations of you
- But based on His love for you and His desires for you

He can also see pain and brokenness that you're trying to hide...

- He knows your struggles....
- He sees the reality of where you are in relationship with Him...

The fig tree wasn't doing what it was supposed to do and it was hiding behind its leaves....

When Adam sinned, he tried to hide behind a fig leaf...

- **Jesus doesn't want to curse you...**
 - **He wants to see you restored**
 - **He wants to see you healed and whole!!**
- I know there's a reason for this today...**
- **I know there's somebody living a lie!!**
 - **Hiding pain and brokenness...**
 - **Hiding behind fig leaves...**

He's here today, presenting Himself to you as The King of Kings and The Lord of Lords!!

- **Extending grace**
- **Extending love**
- **Extending forgiveness**
- **Extending the offer to be your Lord and Savior...**

Don't you want to cry out

- **Hosanna, Hosanna!!!**
- **Here I am Lord**
- **Save me...**
- **Heal me...**
- **Restore me...**
- **Love me....**

Altar: