

A House of Prayer

Joseph Carty / General

Friend of Jesus / Cleansing of the temple; Temple Cleansing; Anger; Indignation / Matthew 21:12–16; Matthew 12:23–46; Mark 11:15–19; Mark 11:27–33; Mark 12:1–12; Luke 19:45–48; Luke 20:1–19

Jesus did a "cleansing of the temple" both at the beginning and the end of his ministry. Why did He do that? What was he trying to accomplish? Why is it okay for Jesus to get mad? How does all of this apply to us today?

- Attitude
 - Triumphal entry
 - Crowd shouting
 - Hosanna, to the Son of David.
 - Energy!!!
- Monday
 - hope to finish
 - what they started
 - on Sunday.

- Possibly,
 - Make Jesus king??!!
- Stayed in Bethany
 - walking to Jerusalem.
- Day doesn't start
 - as they expected...

Jesus Curses the Fig Tree

Mark 11:12-13 *ESV*

On the following day, when they came from Bethany, he was hungry. And seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to see if he could find anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs.

- Figs
 - Leaves and Fruit
 - Develop simultaneously.

- Typically
 - If leaves are full,
 - figs are full.
- This tree had full leaves
 - no figs...
- It was symbolic
 - Of Israel
- Israel had
 - full leaves
 - but no fruit.

› We can be in danger of same....

- Leaves =
 - Profession

- Fruit =
 - character

Desire of Ages Chapter 64—A Doomed People

All the trees in the fig orchard were destitute of fruit; but the leafless trees raised no expectation, and caused no disappointment. By these trees the Gentiles were represented. They were as destitute as were the Jews of godliness; but they had not professed to serve God.

- Jews had
 - knowledge
 - information
 - truth
- Often lacked
 - application
 - life
 - purity.
- Jews were Hypocrites.

- Today,
 - you hear people say:
 - “Christians are hypocrites!”
- Sadly,
 - often true.
 - Just like Jews.

Desire of Ages (Chapter 64—A Doomed People)

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- Jesus pronounced judgment

Mark 11:14 ESV

And he said to it, “May no one ever eat fruit from you again.” And his disciples heard it.

- Harsh judgement?

- prefigures
 - the 2nd Coming.

- Christ comes,
 - inspects fruit.
 - Everyone is judged.

- After curse,
 - they keep walking.
 - go to temple...

- This curse
 - puts a cloud
 - on the disciples attitude.

- Predicts
 - bad omen.

- Afraid,
 - not the day,

- they had planned.

Cleanses Temple

Matthew 21:12-13 **ESV**

And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all who sold and bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. He said to them, “It is written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer,’ but you make it a den of robbers.”

- Why?
- Why Jesus angry?
 - Righteous Indignation
- What was the problem.
 - Lack of respect
 - for holy things.
 - for temple services
 - for meaning of passover

- They had monetized religion.
 - Media Ministries
 - Selling Holy Clothes
 - Simon Magus
 - pay for healing skills
- Spiritual Leaders
 - making money.
- People traveled from
 - far away
 - did bring animals
 - needed to sacrifice
 - needed to buy
 - supply and demand
 - charged huge prices
 - special money
 - exchanging money

- transfer rate.
- Jesus
 - sad
 - angry
 - Lost meaning...

Desire of Ages Chapter 65—The Temple Cleansed Again

The indignation of Jesus was stirred; He knew that His blood, so soon to be shed for the sins of the world, would be as little appreciated by the priests and elders as was the blood of beasts which they kept incessantly flowing.

- Jesus Teaching

Luke 19:46 ESV

saying to them, “It is written, ‘My house shall be a house of prayer,’ but you have made it a den of robbers.”

- Temple is
 - place of worship
 - not a market.

- So far,
 - not exactly the plan
 - Disciples had for day...
- Supposed to win
 - hearts of leaders
 - and people
- Crown Jesus King...
- Little joy about
 - what happens next.

Teaches and Heals at Temple

- After Jesus chased
 - them all out.
 - Quite...

- Worship

[Matthew 21:14–15](#) (ESV)

And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he healed them... the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying out in the temple, “Hosanna to the Son of David!”...

- True worship
 - true temple
 - true purpose of passover.
- Like Sabbath in heaven,
 - can't wait
 - Jesus lead worship.
- Many were happy.
 - Some where not...

[Matthew 21:15–16](#) (ESV)

But the chief priests and the scribes... were indignant, and they said to him,

“Do you hear what these are saying?”

- Jesus condemned their worship
 - They condemned this.
- How can you,
 - heal
 - teach
 - allow kids to say:

English Standard Version Chapter 21

“Hosanna to the Son of David!”

- Jesus answers

[Matthew 21:16](#) (ESV)

Jesus said to them, “Yes; have you never read,

“ ‘Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise’?”

- Quote from [Psa 8:2](#)
- Jesus wont stop
 - their worship.
- Disciple are proud
 - outward talk
 - messianic prophecies...
- Maybe not today,
 - perhaps this week!!!
- Start walking home...

The Lesson from the Withered Fig Tree

Mark 11:20-21 ESV

As they passed by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered away to its roots. And Peter remembered and said to him, “Rabbi, look! The fig tree that you cursed has withered.”

- Come back
 - after long day.
- Fig tree is
 - completely dead!!!
- Fast acting roundup.
- Lessons for us
 - leaves = profession
 - fruit = character
- Jewish Leaders
 - exactly that.
- All pretension
 - no spiritual life.

- We can fall,
 - same ditch...
- Warning us today:

Desire of Ages Chapter 64—A Doomed People

The warning is for all time. Christ's act in cursing the tree which His own power had created stands as a warning to all churches and to all Christians. No one can live the law of God without ministering to others. But there are many who do not live out Christ's merciful, unselfish life. Some who think themselves excellent Christians do not understand what constitutes service for God. They plan and study to please themselves. They act only in reference to self. Time is of value to them only as they can gather for themselves. In all the affairs of life this is their object. Not for others but for themselves do they minister.

- Consumerism
 - at church...
- Ministry isn't
 - what I want
 - I won't come.
 - I'll go to other church.

- › Church is not
 - › a performance
 - › for you to enjoy.
- Church is a group of people
 - who love
 - and serve
 - each other.
- › You cannot experience
 - › church from home...
 - › Come back.

Lessons

- Don't Profess What You Don't Live.
- Be a Part of the Solution.
- Serve Well.