

Gospel of Matthew “Withered Fig Trees”
Matthew 21:18-22
January 21, 2023

Matthew 21:18-22

18 In the morning, as he was returning to the city, he became hungry. 19 And seeing a fig tree by the wayside, he went to it and found nothing on it but only leaves. And he said to it, “May no fruit ever come from you again!” And the fig tree withered at once. 20 When the disciples saw it, they marveled, saying, “How did the fig tree wither at once?” 21 And Jesus answered them, “Truly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and thrown into the sea,’ it will happen. 22 And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith.”

Mark 11:13

13 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.

Taqsh and the Temple.

False advertisement.

Judgment.

Matthew 21:21-22

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Religious activity or real faith.

Grow Group Discussion Questions

- What did God say to you through his Word during our Sunday gathering?
- Do you have an experience with false advertising? What happened? What did you think you were getting and what did you receive?
- Jesus moves towards the fig tree hoping to find something to eat but found nothing. How was the fig tree a metaphor for the Temple?
- The Temple missed its opportunity to bless the nations. What does it look like for our gatherings to be waiting and welcoming to the nations? What does it look like when our gatherings are more tailored for insiders?
- When does our activity as God’s people confuse the world as to what really matters?
- How can our lives be busy but barren? When have you been active but missing encounters with God?

- Matthew 21:21-22 highlights faith and prayer. What is Jesus putting in place that is greater than the Temple? How are faith and prayer part of the greater thing?
- How can your Grow Group support this week as you apply this passage to your life?