

passage serve as a warning to them and to us?

Sermon Notes

“All Leaves, But No Fruit”

Mark 11:12-21

September 20, 2026

6. For Further Study: What is the context of the two OT quotes (Isaiah 56:7; Jeremiah 7:11) Jesus alludes to in his reprimand (11:17)? How does this context clarify Jesus' message?
7. Note how the cleansing of the Temple is sandwiched in between the two halves of the fig-tree account. When Mark structures this way elsewhere (where one episode is interrupted by another) the two mutually interpret each other. If that is the case, how does the cursing of the fig tree relate to the cleansing of the temple?
8. The fig tree had leaves but no fruit; what is one area of your life that looks good, but isn't producing what God wants? How can you grow and become more productive in one of your weak areas?

Let's Pray:

Growth Group Homework

For the week of 09-20-2026

Questions adapted from James Galvin, ed., et al., New Testament Lesson Maker, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1992, p. 93; Lyman Coleman, et al., eds., Serendipity New Testament for Groups, Serendipity House, Littleton, CO, 1986, p. 112; James Hoover, Mark: Follow Me, InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, IL, 1999, pp. 58-60; Ted Dorman, Karen Lee-Thorp, ed., Life Change Series: Mark, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1995, pp. 110-111.

Getting Started:

1. Anger is a tricky emotion. When is it right to feel anger?
Can anger be rightly expressed? If so, how?

Digging Deeper:

Read Mark 11:12-21.

2. What did Jesus do to the fig tree and why (11:13-14, 20-21)? How did this event differ from every other miracle Jesus performed?
3. What happened when Jesus entered the temple area in Jerusalem (11:15-18)? Why was Jesus so upset about the "marketplace" atmosphere in the temple (11:15-17)?
4. What difference does it make to you that Jesus showed anger?
5. Many people believe they will escape the judgment of God simply because they are religious. How can this