

Daily Devotion For March 30, 2021

"The next day, after leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry. From far away, he noticed a fig tree in leaf, so he went to see if he could find anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing except leaves, since it wasn't the season for figs. So he said to it, "No one will ever again eat your fruit!"
Mark 11:12-14;

Mark 11:20-25 continues saying: "Jesus and his disciples were walking along, they saw the fig tree withered from the root up. Peter remembered and said to Jesus, "Rabbi, look how the fig tree you cursed has dried up." Jesus responded to them, "Have faith in God! I assure you that whoever says to this mountain, 'Be lifted up and thrown into the sea'—and doesn't waver but believes that what is said will really happen—it will happen. Therefore I say to you, whatever you pray and ask for, believe that you will receive it, and it will be so for you. And whenever you stand up to pray, if you have something against anyone, forgive so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your wrongdoings."

Jesus' cursing the fig tree is a strange event on the Tuesday of Holy Week. The cursing of the fig tree elicits questions about what Jesus intended to communicate after he entered Jerusalem. Jesus saw the fig tree and cursed it for not bearing fruit. The barren and withered fig tree and yesterday's devotion on the business oriented Temple are meant to compliment each other. In each instance, they were not living their purpose. Despite displaying lots of leaves, this fig tree bore no fruit. And despite all the activity going on in the Temple courts, worship and prayer were not the primary focus. Jesus used both instances to teach how important it is to live on purpose.

Thought For Today: Reflect upon your own purpose for living. Are you living for the purposes of God? Are you bearing fruit? (bearing the fruit of the Holy Spirit – Galatians 5:22-23 or bearing the fruit of seeing others coming to faith in Christ). Are worship and prayer part of your daily purpose for living?

Today's Prayer Focus: Pray that God will help you to live according to God's purposes. Continue to read this week's updated prayer fuel. Deo Volente.