

November 12, 2017  
Mark 11:12-14; 20-22

## **The Withered Fig Tree**

### **I. Introduction:**

### **II. Unpacking The Passage:**

#### **A. The Lord's Desire**

"The next day as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was **hungry.**" Mark 11:12

#### **B. The Lord's Disappointment**

"Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to find out if it had any fruit. When he reached it, he found nothing but leaves because it was not the seas for figs." Mark 11:13

#### **C. The Lord's Declaration**

"Then he said to the tree, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard him say it." Mark 11:14

#### **D. The Lord's Demonstration**

20] "In the morning, as they went along, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots. 21] Peter remembered and said to Jesus "Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered." Mark 11:20-21

### **III. Conclusion And Application:**

**POINTS TO PONDER**  
**Week of November 13<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>**  
**Mark 11:12-14; 20-21**

**Open It**

1. Why do people hold grudges?
2. \*Why is it easy to hold grudges?
3. How do you think holding a grudge would affect your relationship with your best friend?

**Explore It**

4. Where Did Jesus go and why? (11:12-13)
5. Why did the fig tree have no fruit? (11:13)
6. What did Jesus do to the fig tree? Why? (11:13-14)
7. How did this miracle differ from every other miracle Jesus performed? (11:13-14)
8. What happened when the disciples saw the fig tree withered along the road? (11:20)
9. How did Peter react to what he saw? (11:21)
10. \*How did Jesus use a seemingly insignificant event as an opportunity to teach the disciples? (11:22)
11. \*On what do answers to prayer depend? (11:22-25)
12. What truth did Jesus illustrate with the withered fig tree? (11:23-24)

13. What elements did Jesus single out of this object lesson regarding a strong prayer life? (11:23-25)
14. What promise did Jesus offer about receiving answers to prayers? (11:24)
15. How can a person be sure God has forgiven his or her sins? (11:24)
16. What can stand in the way of God's forgiveness? (11:25)
17. \*How can holding a grudge affect the way God answers prayer? (11:25)
18. How is some unanswered prayer accounted for? (11:25)

### **Get It**

19. Why does Jesus tie God's forgiveness of us with our forgiveness of others?
20. What does this passage say about the relationship between faith and forgiveness?
21. What should we be willing to do to resolve conflicts between ourselves and others?
22. \*Why is it necessary to forgive others for what they have done?
23. \*When is it difficult for you to forgive others?
24. What will happen if you refuse to forgive others?
25. In what ways has this passage challenged you to reexamine your faith and your prayer life?

26. When have you experienced frustrations or doubts in your prayer life?
27. How can God be both sovereign and bound to grant every prayer request we lay before Him?
28. For what other reasons besides grudges do our prayers go unanswered?

**Apply It**

29. What is one specific request that you want to commit yourself to pray for regularly this week?
30. \*What can you do today to let go of a grudge or feeling of offense?