



The Deceptive

Fig Tree

-MARK 11:12-26

The Deceptive Fig Tree

Deceptive—Giving an appearance or impression different from the true one; misleading.

Aim Of This Lesson—

For Christians to realize we need to keep God holy and we need to approach Him with honor and reverence.

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Scripture text: --Mark 11: 12-14 (*nkjv*)

¹² Now the next day, when they had come out from Bethany, He was hungry. ¹³ And seeing from afar a fig tree having leaves, He went to see if perhaps He would find something on it. When He came to it, *He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs.* ¹⁴ In response Jesus said to it, **“Let no one eat fruit from you ever again.”** And His disciples heard *it*.

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- **Troubling passages in reference to Jesus.**
- **VS. 13—”...for it was not the season for figs.”**
- **What is Jesus doing?**
- **What is His point?**
- **What is He trying to teach us?**

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- **The Uniqueness of Fig Trees.**
- **VS. 13—”...for it was not the season for figs.”**
- **Jesus’ response to the tree.**

Mark 11:14, 21 (*nkjv*)

¹⁴ In response Jesus said to it, **“Let no one eat fruit from you ever again.”** And His disciples heard *it*.

²¹ And Peter, remembering, said to Him, “Rabbi, look! The fig tree which you cursed has withered away.”

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- **To help us understand the lesson of “The Deceptive Fig Tree”, there are four points to consider:**
 - 1. Triumphal Entry of Jesus and the cleansing of the temple.**
 - 2. The “Enacted Parable” of the Fig Tree.**
 - 3. Jesus’ actions in regard to the Fig Tree.**
 - 4. Christ’s Instructions.**

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1. Triumphal Entry of Jesus and the Cleansing of the Temple.

- **Mark 11:1-11**—Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem.
 - Everything they did looked so good...and sounded so good.
- **Mark 11:15-19**—Look at what these same people did in the temple.
 - Looked so good on the outside; everyone giving the appearance of being dedicated to God.

Matthew 23:27-28 (*nkjv*)

²⁷ “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead *men’s* bones and all uncleanness. ²⁸ Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

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2. The “Enacted Parable” of the Fig Tree.

- **Enacted parable—symbolic actions intended to make a public statement.**
- **The fig tree is an acted out parable that reflects what these people were like, and it reflects the judgment that is going to come on them.**

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2. The “Enacted Parable” of the Fig Tree.

- When it came to the Jewish nation, God was the planter and they were His special tree.

Isaiah 61:3; 60:21 (*nkjv*)

³ To console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.”

²¹ Also your people *shall* all *be* righteous; they shall inherit the land forever, The branch of My planting, the work of My hands, that I may be glorified.

Hosea 9:13 (*nkjv*)

¹³ Just as I saw Ephraim like Tyre, planted in a pleasant place,
So Ephraim will bring out his children to the murderer.”

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3. Jesus' actions in regard to the Fig Tree.

- **Shows what is to befall the Jewish nation.**
- **Shows His disgust for people who practice religion with no substance.**
- **We need to keep God holy and we need to approach Him with honor and reverence.**
 - **When we call Christ “Lord”, it needs to show in our lives.**

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4. Christ's instructions

Mark 11:20-22 *nkjv*

²⁰ Now in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. ²¹ And Peter, remembering, said to Him, “Rabbi, look! The fig tree which You cursed has withered away.” ²² So Jesus answered and said to them, “Have faith in God.

- **Do not have a superficial, shallow, no substance faith that is all show with nothing on the inside.**
 - **Have faith in God, trust in Him, believe in Him, have confidence in Him.**

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4. Christ's instructions

Mark 11:23-24 *nkjv*

²³ For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. ²⁴ Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive *them*, and you will have *them*.

- **Have a faith in God that is unwavering, that does not doubt, that fully trusts in God no matter what.**
 - **A faith that draws near to God and that depends on God.**

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4. Christ's instructions

Mark 11:25-26 *nkjv*

²⁵ “And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. ²⁶But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.”

- **Have a faith that is obedient to God.**
 - **A faith that is obedient to forgive.**

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- **Jesus taught His disciples a very important lesson with this fig tree.**
- **They learned that He is not satisfied with appearances alone.**
- **They learned that He does not want a bunch of phonies and fakes.**
- **They learned that faith without substance will be cursed.**
 - **We should not have a life of rituals and activities—a life of a lot of leaves and no fruit.**
 - **Is your life that way?**

The Plan of Salvation

Hear

Romans 10:13-17

Believe

John 20:31, Hebrews 11:6

Repent

Luke 13:3, Acts 17:30

Confess

Romans 10:10, Matthew 10:32

Baptism

Mark 16:16, Acts 2:38



How to Make a Request for Prayer **or Baptism**

PrayerRequests@whelesscoc.org





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