

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for May 31, 1987

Cursing a Fig Tree
Matthew 21:18-22
Dale Whitehead

Introduction: **2 Corinthians 5:17**, in Christ we become “a new creature.” This means dramatic change in our lives. Jesus has ordained that we go and bear fruit. Our relationship with Him is to make a difference. This is a passage of contrast.

1. (Symbolic of Israel) Israel had a special relationship with God. Christ’s disappointment in the fruitlessness of a fig tree (The story of the fig tree is a two day event, **Mark 11**).

Jesus approaches the fig tree because it has leaves on it. The fig tree bears fruit and leaves at the same time so the tree appears to have fruit but does not; as Israel has the temple, priests, covenant with God and does not bear fruit.

2. Christ’s great expectations for His disciples, “Truly I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt.” “Have faith in God” (**Mark 11**).

Christ is talking about great power here, “say to a mountain be taken up and cast into the sea and it shall happen.” Christ is talking to His disciples, people who have given their lives over to God, people who are not following the lust of the flesh. Christ is not saying, you will have power pursuing things of the flesh but is saying you will have power pursuing Christ.

Christ is talking about the power of prayer.

Disciples pray!!