

CURSING OF THE FIG TREE

Intro. 4 day before Passover, Monday. Day after triumphal entry. Incident on way into Jerus and cleansing of temple.

Theme--hypocrisy. OT warnings to nation given under symbolic terms. Vineyard of Isa 5. Jews spoken of as a tree, Psa 80. X used in parable of wicked husbandman, ~~I./ Characteristics of Hypocrisy/~~ Lk 13:6-9. P in Rom 11 uses figure. Miracle then is last appeal to Jewish people on very week of crucifixion. Had knowledge far beyond other nations; yet their rejection of Messiah showed withered condition.

I. Characteristics of hypocrisy.

- A. Hypocrisy is attractive. Lord saw green foliage which caught His eye before He reached the tree. It was prob a solitary tree by the road a remnant of some old orchard or vineyard.
- B. Hypocrisy is ~~ineffective~~ barren. When got there no fruit. All fluff, no fruit. /Fruitlessness "in midst of display which promises fruit" Swete 239. True no reason to expect the fruit except for the leaves which offered it. It was reasonable to expect bec of the leaves; unreasonable bec of the time of year. Possibly the tree was sheltered some way and that's why leaves. Other trees
- C. ~~beginning~~ to bud, Mk 13:28. Fig trees yield more than one crop in a year but even early figs not in season till May. Hypocrisy is always barren bec no fruit.
- C. Hypocrisy is cheating. Lord wanted food and got nothing. He wanted the Jews to receive Him and got rejection. All hypocrisy this way. Cheats not nec bec of what it says but bec of what it might be if real. Leaves fine, but need fruit too. Actually fig trees bear crop before leaves and so with real Xnty-- fruit comes then attractiveness of added ornamentation as one becomes more fruitful. Hypocrisy is not only fruitlessness but falsehood.

II. Condemnation of hypocrisy.

- A. It was immediate. Lord condemned on spot. Whether withering took place immediately not so sure. Mt compresses the acct but Mk tells us that it was not until the next morning that the disciples noticed the withering.
- B. It was just. Tree object lesson of the Jewish nation so perfectly just. He is Lord of creation and besides that this tree prob didn't belong to anyone as pigs did in demoniac miracle. Not display of temper. Trench points out that people who say that are usually those who have adopted a view of God as Love which eliminated anything like Justice.
- C. It was complete. The tree did wither and all false professions will wither in that day.

III. Contrast of hypocrisy.

In contrast to the unreality of Jews was the reality of the fellowship of X with the Father. We may infer that this miracle was in answer to a prayer to God by X bec the lesson He draws from it is that of prayer. Reality of profession brings kind of fellowship with God which brings answers.

A. Requirements.

- 1. Faith. No doubt about anything hard. "Remove mts means anything difficult. This mt prob Mt Olives. And faith always grows from knowing the faithful One.
- 2. Fellowship or forgiveness. Things must be right on earth so that fellowship with God right. True this is a legal principle for a covenant people, but the same principle applies today. Eph 4:32. Col 3:13. Anything that hinders fellowship will hinder prayer.

B. Results.

Ye shall receive. What X wrought by prayer His disciples can do also. Note that Father is one dealt with, Mk 11:25 and it is within Father's prerogative to deal in chastisement in answering prayers. So this isn't a blank check sort of thing.

