

FAILED ON INSPECTION

Mark 11.11–22

OUTLINE

9 May 2010

FAILED ON INSPECTION

Mark 11.11–22

AG STUDY #32

9 May 2010

1. Case of a Failed Inspection
2. Sequence of Events
Mark 11.11: “And Jesus entered into Jerusalem, and into the temple: and when he had looked round about...”
11.15-17: “Jesus went into the temple, and began to cast out...”
3. Structure of Text:
Mark 11.11: the temple
11.12-14: the fig tree
11.15-19: the temple
11.20-21: the fig tree
11.27: the temple
4. Inspection of Temple and Tree
 - a) Jesus went into the temple. He was looking for something.
 - b) The next day, he went up to the fig tree. He was looking for something. He cursed the tree.
 - c) He went into the temple. He drove out the money-changers and sellers of animal sacrifices.
 - d) He went to the fig tree. It was withered from the roots.
5. The Temple & The Fig Tree
 - a) Temple: symbol of God’s presence
 - b) Fig Tree: symbol of God’s people
 - c) Temple was cleansed
 - d) Fig Tree was cursed
6. What is God looking for?
 - a) Not leaves, but fruit
 - b) Not activities, but fruitfulness
 - c) Inward fruit: reproducing Christ in us: love
 - d) Outward fruit: reproducing Christ in others: souls

STARTER: Share an experience when you had to face inspection of what you have done or are doing (e.g. in army, at work, in school, audit of accounts, audition for performance). How did you feel before it, and after it is over?

SCRIPTURES: Mark 11.11-22

STUDY:

1. What was Jesus doing when He went into the temple, and when He went up to the fig tree? What did He see in each case?
2. What was wrong in the Temple, and what was wrong with the fig tree? What did Jesus do in each case?
3. If Jesus walks into our church today, what would He be looking for? Would He find it?
4. What does the Temple symbolise (physically, historically and spiritually)? What does the fig tree symbolise? How are they related to each other?
5. “God is not looking for leaves. He is looking for fruit.” What would be considered “leaves” in our lives? What would be “fruit”?
6. Consider the cursing of the fig tree in the light of Jesus’ teaching in John 15.2, ESV: “Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he (“my Father”) takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.” How can we ensure our lives are fruitful, bearing fruit and more fruit?

SUMMING UP:

Take a piece of paper and draw a line down the centre. On one side write “Leaves” and on the other write “Fruit.” List things in your lives which you would consider “Leaves” (obvious, visible, impressive), and which you would consider “Fruit” (showing our true identity as Jesus’ disciples, and bringing others to Him—Galatians 5.22-23; John 15.12-17).