

## The Cursing of the Fig Tree Matthew 21:18-22

### I. The Lord's P\_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 18-19a)

- a. The Cursing of the Fig Tree is a Physical Illustration of Israel's Coming Judgment (cf. Jer. 8:13; Hosea 9:10; Joel 1:7, 12; Luke 13:6-9; Acts 21:7-14)
- b. Fig trees produce fruit before they have leaves, so this tree was all show and no substance.
  - a. Just like the nation and religion of Israel (cf. Acts 8:25-40)
- c. So, **"No longer shall there ever be any fruit from you."**
  - a. In 70 AD Rome destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple and dispersed the Jews throughout the Empire
    - i. And so, they shall remain until Jesus' return (cf. Zech. 12:10; John 19:37)

### II. The Lord's P\_\_\_\_\_ (v. 19b)

- a. <sup>19</sup>...**And at once the fig tree withered.**
  - i. The tree died the instant Jesus cursed it, and it continued to miraculously wither
- b. Your NEW Holy Week Harmonization spreads these events over Tuesday and Wednesday (cf. Mark 11:12-14, 20-21)
  - i. Jesus cursed the fig tree on the way to Jerusalem to cleanse the Temple (Tuesday)
  - ii. The disciples see "**the fig tree withered from the roots up**" on Wednesday morning while heading back to Jerusalem

### III. The Disciple's P\_\_\_\_\_ (v. 20)

- a. Jesus had worked countless miracles in front of His disciples, yet still they did not fully understand or believe:
  - i. Healing of a leper (Matt. 8:1-4)
  - ii. Healing of the centurion's servant (Matt. 8:5-13)
  - iii. Healing of Peter's mother-in-law (Matt. 8:14-15)

- iv. Healing many sick and demon-possessed (Matt. 8:16-17)
- v. Calming the storm (Matt. 8:23-27)
- vi. Casting out demons from two men in Gadara (Matt. 8:28-34)
- vii. Healing a paralyzed man (Matt. 9:1-8)
- viii. Raising Jairus' daughter (Matt. 9:18-26)
- ix. Healing a woman with a blood flow (Matt. 9:20-22)
- x. Healing two blind men (Matt. 9:27-31)
- xi. Healing a mute man (Matt. 9:32-34)
- xii. Healing a man with a withered hand (Matt. 12:9-14)
- xiii. Feeding the five thousand (Matt. 14:13-21)
- xiv. Walking on water (Matt. 14:22-33)
- xv. Feeding the four thousand (Matt. 15:32-39)
- xvi. Healing a boy possessed by a demon (Matt. 17:14-18)

### IV. The Lord's P\_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 21-22)

- a. Jesus is NOT a "genie" and prayer is NOT proverbially rubbing His lamp! (cf. Ps. 37:4)
- b. We are NOT "little gods" whom God is forced to grant our "containers of faith" (cf. Ps. 82:1-6; Isa. 37:16; John 10:34;)
- c. Jesus is Promising that God always hears our prayers and answers them with what is BEST!
- d. Mountain moving faith IS figurative and hyperbolic (cf. Matt. 12:38; 17:20; Luke 11:5-8; 18:1-8)
  - i. The principle of mustard seed faith, is not its size, but that it grows and grows.
  - ii. The overarching principle IS that nothing is impossible with God!!!
- e. <sup>4</sup> **Delight yourself in the Lord; And He will give you the desires of your heart.** <sup>5</sup> **Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, and He will do it.** (Ps. 37:4-5; cf. John 14:13-14; 1 John 5:14; James 4:3)