

An Unfruitful Tree and an Unholy Temple **Mark 11:12-26**

Cursing of an unfruitful fig tree, 11:12-14

- Sandwich structure ties episodes together, cf. 3:20-35, 5:21-43.
- Why curse this tree, especially since it's not the season for figs?

Cleansing of an unholy temple, 11:15-19

- Jesus' anger is over (1) making money (2) making commotion
John 2:13ff. indicates Jesus wrecked the temple earlier as well.
- Isa. 56:3-7 expresses welcoming of Gentiles to worship God.
- Jer. 7:1ff. expresses warning of judgment . . . temple or not!
- Note the parallel issues with the tree and temple? See 13:1,2.
Q: *What must I ask of myself and of GCBC?*

Cursed fig tree's unkind fate and prayer promises, 11:20-26

- Matt. 21:20 explains why the application turns to prayer.
- Moving mountains is hyperbole (Lk. 17:6, I Cor. 13:2) to stress
faith-filled prayer can move mountain-like obstacles in life.
- Recall a problem of the 12 = 4:40, Matt. 17:19,20, Lk. 17:5,6.
- What here can limit prayer's impact? Matt. 6:14,15, I Pt. 3:7.
Q: *Am I praying big enough and forgiving big enough?*

