

Sermon Notes

Providence Community Church

8-23-15 Ken Carlton

Title: THE FIG IN FIGURATIVE

Main Text: Mat 21:18-22

Sermon Description: A closer look at the contextual significance of this event in the gospels provides striking emphasis for prophetic, messianic, and gospel themes! An imagery study of 'fig tree' in scripture reminds us of the proprietary literary devices of scripture. There is a resplendent uniqueness in every aspect of special revelation right down to its metaphors. For those so nearsighted, they are blind (II Peter 1:9) all that interests them in these synoptic accounts are presumed contradictions. (Mark's account is different in his recordation methodology) to this point Barnes reminds us: "Such circumstantial variations, where there is no positive contradiction, go greatly to confirm the truth of a narrative. They show that the writers were honest men, and did not conspire to deceive the world." There is not enough time in one sermon for what OUGHT to interest us in this text... Let us consider its greater significance starting with reading glasses and then moving to a panoramic view through the wide angle lens of redemptive history.

Heading: UNDERSTANDING THE CURSED FIG TREE ACCORDING TO THE...

1. IMMEDIATE CONTEXT (Mt 21:18-22)

- a. Purpose & pleasure of Christ b. Created order anomaly (Mt 7:15-20) c. Lesser to greater (Jn 1:48-51)

2. NARRATIVE CONTEXT (Mt 21)

- a. Miracle/parable relationship b. Promise repeated (Mt 17:20) c. Contextual key (Mt 21:21:43-44)

3. COVENANTAL CONTEXT (Old Testament references)

- a. Nature of fruit (Jer 24:1-8) b. Subject of flourishing & judgement (Mic 4:4 etc.) c. Consolidation (Dan 2)

Close: What at first may appear as an incidental curiosity in the gospel record proves to be a virtual disaster alarm for the presumptuous spectator of Christ and Christianity. (Mt 3:9-10) John the Baptist's sobering prophecy of the Messiah is spectacularly highlighted in chapter 21 by Christ's display of fulfilling power. The 2nd Adam is demonstrating His authority and intent to subdue and tend His garden – the whole earth and all history to the praise of His glorious name!

FAMILY WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Theme: Glory of Christ	Theme: By their fruits	Theme: Occasion of figs	Theme: Promise repeated	Theme: Nature of fruit	Theme: Stone & mountain
Verses: Mt 21:18-22	Verses: Mt 7:15-20	Verses: Jn 1:48-51	Verses: Mt 17:14-20	Verses: Jer 24:1-8	Verses: Dan 2:34-45

FURTHER STUDY: see 'Excerpts' posted weekly at providencecrosslake.com (this week: FIG TREE word study)

NEXT WEEK: Mat 21:23-27