



- Things were not what they should be in the one place they needed to be. What was taking place in the Temple that day only expressed Israel's inner spiritual condition.

I. A Fruitless Tree

- It is likely Jesus spent the night in prayer (Mark 1:35, 6:46).
- Jesus was an early riser on a mission as He sought to set the people free from religious bondage.

I. A Fruitless Tree

- The fruit of the fig tree would appear before or with the leaves.
- This is the only miracle recorded that has a negative impact.

I. A Fruitless Tree

- The fig tree is an OT type of the nation of Israel (Hos. 9:10; Nah. 3:12; Zech. 3:10).
- This tree was making a bold prediction of its fruitfulness, but upon inspection it had no fruit to offer.

I. A Fruitless Tree

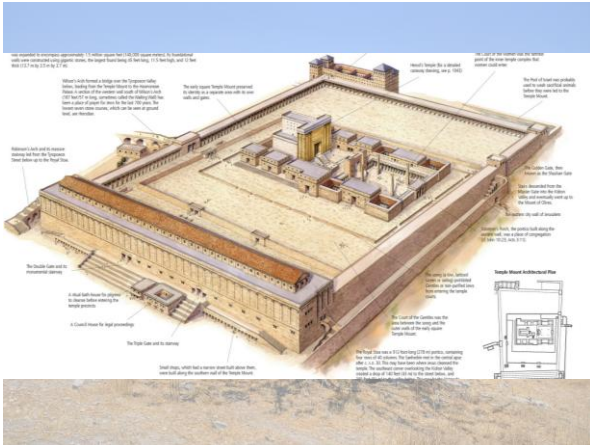
- Jesus clearly states that those who abide in Him will bear fruit (John 15:4)
- A true mark of a believer in Jesus Christ is that they are bearing fruit.

I. A Fruitless Tree

- We prove to be His disciples by the fruit that we bear, and our Heavenly Father is glorified (John 15:8).
- "A God who winked at and never punished sin would not be a good God." – J.D. Jones

II. Purifying Worship

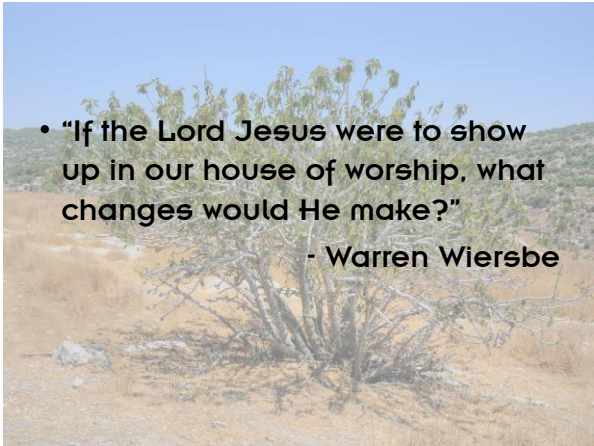
- At the beginning of His earthly ministry, Jesus entered the temple area and cleansed the temple (John 2:13-17).



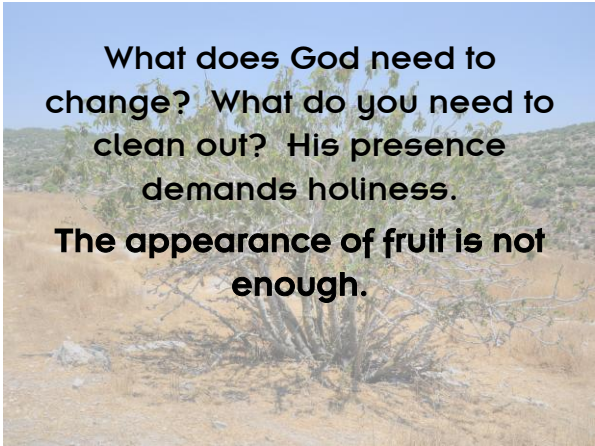
- **The High Priest – Caiaphas – allowed the exchange of goods and money in the Temple complex in the court of the Gentiles. He would get a cut of the money that was made.**

- Jesus entered Jerusalem the day before as Israel's King. Today He enters as Israel's High Priest.
- Jesus stayed in the courtyard, not allowing anyone to come through.

- Jesus quotes Isaiah 56:7, reminding the crowds that God desires all men to draw close to Him.
- The crowds were knocked out by the Lord's teaching and actions that day.

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- "If the Lord Jesus were to show up in our house of worship, what changes would He make?"

- Warren Wiersbe



What does God need to change? What do you need to clean out? His presence demands holiness.

The appearance of fruit is not enough.