



Lesson 52 – A Doomed People

Based on Mark 11:11-14, 20, 21; Matthew 21:17-19.

It was the final week of Jesus' ministry here on Earth before the crucifixion. Jesus had just ridden into Jerusalem on the foal of an ass. A large scene that included the surrounding hillsides was growing strong.

- 1) What Messianic prophecies were being fulfilled?

Zechariah 9:9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy _____ unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.

Psalms 118:26 _____ be he that cometh in the name of the LORD: we have blessed you out of the house of the LORD.

- 2) What prophecy did Jesus give the leaders in Jerusalem previously?

Matthew 23:39 For I say unto you, Ye shall not _____ me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

- 3) Zechariah saw Christ's victory in vision, what did he say about it?

Zechariah 12:10 And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall _____ upon _____ whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

In prophetic vision Zechariah was shown that day of final triumph; and he beheld also the doom of those who at the first advent had rejected Christ.

This scene Christ foresaw when He beheld the city and wept over it. In the temporal ruin of Jerusalem, He saw the final destruction of that people who were guilty of the blood of the Son of God.

- 4) What did the Pharisees instruct Jesus?

Luke 19:39 And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto him, Master, _____ thy disciples.

There were Roman officers in the throng, and to them His enemies denounced Jesus as the leader of a rebellion. They represented that He was about to take possession of the temple, and reign as king in Jerusalem. But the calm voice of Jesus hushed for a moment the clamorous throng as He again declared that He had not come to establish a temporal rule; He should soon ascend to His Father, and His accusers would see Him no more until He should come again in glory. Then, too late for their salvation, they would acknowledge Him. These words Jesus spoke with sadness and with singular power. The Roman officers were silenced and subdued. Their hearts, though strangers to divine influence, were moved as they had never been moved before. In the calm, solemn face of Jesus they read love, benevolence, and quiet dignity. They were stirred by a sympathy they could not understand. Instead of arresting Jesus, they were more inclined to pay Him homage. Turning upon the priests and rulers, they charged them with creating the disturbance.

- 5) What happened from there?

Mark 11:11 And Jesus entered into Jerusalem, and into the _____: and when he had looked round about upon all things, and now the eventide was come, he went out unto _____ with the twelve.



That entire night Jesus spent in prayer, and in the morning, He came again to the temple.

6) What does Scripture record as happening the next day?

Mark 11:12-13 And on the morrow, when they were come from Bethany, he was _____: And seeing a _____ tree afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find any thing thereon: and when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves; for the time of figs was not yet.

In the orchard to which Jesus came, one tree appeared to be in advance of all the others. It was already covered with leaves. It is the nature of the fig tree that before the leaves open, the growing fruit appears. Therefore, this tree in full leaf gave promise of well-developed fruit. But its appearance was deceptive. Upon searching its branches, from the lowest bough to the topmost twig, Jesus found "**nothing but leaves**." It was a mass of pretentious foliage, nothing more.

7) What did Jesus say to the tree?

Matthew 21:19 And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found _____ thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever. And presently the fig tree _____ away.

The next morning, as the Saviour and His disciples were again on their way to the city, the blasted branches and drooping leaves attracted their attention.

8) What did the Disciples say when they saw the withered tree?

Matthew 21:20 And when the disciples saw it, they _____, saying, How soon is the fig tree withered away!

9) What lessons about Messiah confused the Disciples?

Luke 9:56 For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to _____ them...

Micah 7:18 Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his _____ for ever, because he delighteth in mercy.

Ezekiel 33:11 Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the _____; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

Isaiah 28:11 For the LORD shall rise up as in mount Perazim, he shall be wroth as in the valley of Gibeon, that he may do his work, his strange work; and bring to pass his act, his strange act.

The cursing of the fig tree was an acted parable. That barren tree, flaunting its pretentious foliage in the very face of Christ, was a symbol of the Jewish nation. The Saviour desired to make plain to His disciples the cause and the certainty of Israel's doom. For this purpose, He invested the tree with moral qualities and made it the expositor of divine truth.

10) What was the condition of God's Church at that time?

Mark 11:13 And seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find any thing thereon: and when he came to it, he found nothing but _____; for the time of figs was not yet.

The Jews stood forth distinct from all other nations, professing allegiance to God. They had been specially favored by Him, and they laid claim to righteousness above every other people. But they were corrupted by the love of the world and the greed of gain. They boasted of their knowledge, but they were



ignorant of the requirements of God and were full of hypocrisy. Like the barren tree, they spread their pretentious branches aloft, luxuriant in appearance, and beautiful to the eye, but humility, love, and benevolence were lacking.

11) What prophetic words did Hosea say about Israel?

Hosea 13:9 O Israel, thou hast _____ thyself; but in me is thine help.

The warning is for all time. Christ's act in cursing the tree which His own power had created stands as a warning to all churches and to all Christians. No one can live the law of God without ministering to others.

12) What parable had Jesus taught previously about a fig tree?

Luke 13:6-9 He spake also this parable; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought _____ thereon, and found none. Then said he unto the _____ of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: _____ it down; why cumbereth it the ground? And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: And if it bear _____, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down.

People observe the forms of worship, but without repentance or faith. In profession they honor the law of God, but obedience is lacking. They say, but do not. In the sentence pronounced on the fig tree Christ demonstrates how hateful in His eyes is this vain pretense. He declares that the open sinner is less guilty than is he who professes to serve God, but who bears no fruit to His glory.

Bible truth, the religion of Christ, struggles against a strong current of moral impurity. Prejudice is even stronger in the hearts of men now than in Christ's day. Christ did not fulfill men's expectations; His life was a rebuke to their sins, and they rejected Him. So now the truth of God's word does not harmonize with men's practices and their natural inclination, and thousands reject its light.

13) What was Jesus' lament as He beheld the city and wept?

Luke 19:42-44 Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are _____ from thine eyes. For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and _____ thee round, and keep thee in on every side, And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy _____.

Christ overlooked the world and all ages from the height of Olivet; and His words are applicable to every soul who slights the pleadings of divine mercy. Scorned of His love, He addresses you today. It is **"thou, even thou,"** who shouldst know the things that belong to thy peace. Christ is shedding bitter tears for you, who have no tears to shed for yourself. Already that fatal hardness of heart which destroyed the Pharisees is manifest in you. And every evidence of the grace of God, every ray of divine light, is either melting and subduing the soul, or confirming it in hopeless impenitence.

14) What words of warning did Jesus give Israel (and us)?

Jeremiah 6:19 Hear, O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, even the _____ of their _____, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my law, but rejected it.

15) What is Jesus saying to all who will listen?

Matthew 11:28-30 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy _____, and I will give you _____. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find _____ unto your _____. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is _____.

Can you see it isn't safe to ignore the Spirit's leading ?

Would you like to enter The Holy City?

When is the time to listen to God's pleadings?