



DAY 2 MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2020

READ SCRIPTURE:

- Mark 11:12-21

¹² On the following day, when they came from Bethany, he was hungry. ¹³ And seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to see if he could find anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. ¹⁴ And he said to it, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard it. ¹⁵ And they came to Jerusalem. And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold and those who bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. ¹⁶ And he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple. ¹⁷ And he was teaching them and saying to them, "Is it not written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations'? But you have made it a den of robbers." ¹⁸ And the chief priests and the scribes heard it and were seeking a way to destroy him, for they feared him, because all the crowd was astonished at his teaching. ¹⁹ And when evening came they went out of the city. ²⁰ As they passed by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered away to its roots. ²¹ And Peter remembered and said to him, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree that you cursed has withered."

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REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. How does the cursing of the fig tree relate to the cleansing of the temple and the driving out of the money changers?
2. If the main problem with the fig tree was its lack of fruit, what does that say about the importance of fruit bearing the life of a follower of Christ? What about the lack thereof?
3. Where else would you turn in the Scriptures to reiterate this point?
4. What is the only way a person can be a "fruit-bearer" according to Jesus?

PRAYER:

- Ask God to keep you from being a fruitless vine whose end will be to be tossed into the flames and burned. Ask God to cause you to bear fruit by abiding in his Son Jesus and relying on the power of the Holy Spirit to do so. Pray that his church would be pure and holy and not a “den of robbers.”