

What Angers God

Mark 11:12-18

I. Jesus Curses the Fig Tree: Claiming godliness without the fruit of godliness (Mark 11:12-14)

- A. Story: Jesus cursed the fig tree that had no edible fruit.
- B. Point: Jesus was condemning the Jewish leaders for their religious performance, but lack of real spiritual fruit (see Luke 13:6-7). The fig tree pictures what Jesus would confront when He got to the temple that day.
- God always confronts hypocrisy (Jeremiah 3:5; 3:10; 12:2; 1 Samuel 15:22) and desires sincerity (Psalm 51:16-17).

II. Jesus Clears the Temple: Pursuing what profits me instead of what pleases God (Mark 11:15-18)

- A. Story: Jesus drove out the businessmen and money changers who set up shop in the Gentile court to make money for themselves and Jewish leaders.
- B. Point: Jesus was confronting those who replaced worship with their own selfish interests.
- Racial Pride and Prejudice – The merchant area of the temple was the court of the gentiles – which was to be “a house of prayer for *all nations*.”
Do I have a spiritually exclusive or proud view of myself?
 - Financial Greed and Selfishness – The financial operation at the temple revealed greedy hearts.
Does financial greed or fear consume me and impede my worship?
 - Failure to Worship – The core problem at the temple was that worship was absent or hindered for most.
God’s ultimate purpose in my life is my worship. How is it going?