

# Fruitful or Fruitless Faith

Mark 11:1-25

## 1. Evaluating: Jesus of Scripture, or Man-made Jesus Vs. 1-11

The correct understanding of the Messiah was made clear through Jesus' teaching with authority, His providing of miracles, casting out demons, revealing His divinity (ex: foreknowledge of future events), and fulfilling scripture (ex: Zechariah 9:9), but the people chose to focus on their own version of the Messiah.

Although they displayed enthusiasm towards Jesus, they went ahead of Jesus rather than be with Jesus. As a result, when Jesus arrived at the temple, the crowds had left.

People can be enthusiastic about Jesus, but there is a difference between being with Jesus, and following a Jesus that one has created within their own mind.

### Question:

- What are the signs that would show us that a person has been following a man-made Jesus?

## 2. Encountering God: Jesus is the New Temple vs. 12-25

Jesus used an enacted parable with the fig tree to help the disciples understand His judgment that He revealed towards the temple. The temple was no longer a place to encounter God (no longer a house of prayer), as the leadership had made it a place of corruption.

Jesus is the new temple (Mark 14:58; John 2:19-22). Only through Jesus can people know and encounter God; to live a life of faith in God while experiencing the fruits of prayer and forgiveness.

### Question:

- Only through Jesus can we truly experience God. By God's grace we now live a new life (2 Corinthians 5:17). How has your life been transformed?

- Our faith in Christ produces much fruit (John 15:4-5). What are the kinds of fruit that we experience because of the relationship we have with God?