



Series: Miracles of Jesus

Sermon: Part 9: Image Versus Reality

Date: Sunday, August 31st, 2025

This tendency for us to _____ our reality all started in the Garden of Eden.

The next day as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry. Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, He went to find out if it had any fruit. When He reached it, He found nothing but leaves, because it was not the season for figs. Then He [Jesus] said to the tree, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And His disciples heard Him say it. On reaching Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple courts and began driving out those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves, and would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts. (Mark 11:12-16)

Jesus was righteously _____ that God's house of worship had been transformed into a place of extortion, bribery, and greed as hoops were being created for people to come to God in order to worship Him.

"Is it not written: 'My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations'? But you have made it 'a den of robbers.'" The chief priests and the teachers of the law heard this and began looking for a way to kill Him, for they feared Him, because the whole crowd was amazed at His teaching. When evening came, Jesus and His disciples went out of the city. (Mark 11:17-19)

*...love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.
(Galatians 5:22-23)*

How is our faith in Jesus transforming us and the community that we live in into the likeness of Jesus?

In the morning, as they went along, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots. Peter remembered and said to Jesus, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree You cursed has withered!" (Mark 11:20)

"Have faith in God," Jesus answered. "Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in Heaven may forgive you your sins." (Mark 11:22-25)



Spiritual Truths We Learn From This Account:

1. _____ from God we can do nothing

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in Me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing." (John 15:5)

At the end of our lives if our branches are filled with leaves but bear no resemblance of Godliness or Godly influence, then we are just fig trees who just existed but had no fruit.

This is really an invitation that Jesus is giving to those who are not connected to Him, to start connecting to Him so that they can experience life and eternal life with Him.

2. We _____ through prayer and obedience

It is only in being faithful to abide in Christ that we become _____ for Him.

3. Putting our _____ in the Savior shapes us to be like the Savior

If we are born again, if we are given a new heart by Jesus, then are we faithful to abide in Christ as a response to all He has done to love and save us?

Bottom Line: *It is only in being faithful to abide in Christ that we become fruitful for Him.*

Questions to reflect on this week or with others:

- 1. If Jesus were to look at your heart and your posture of surrender; what would He find upon closer inspection? Will He find only an impressive facade or will He find true spiritual fruit?*
- 2. What are the challenges that make it difficult for you to abide in Christ and be faithful to Him?*
- 3. If God has given you a new heart and new life because of your faith in Him, then what next step can you take to put your efforts towards God developing fruit in you that is eternal rather than you developing fruit that is temporal?*

Songs used in service: Battle Belongs (Phil Wickham), Bondade de Deus [Goodness of God] (David Quinlan), God and God Alone (Chris Tomlin), Same God (Elevation Worship)

Any prayer requests?

-----Tear Here -----

Name _____ **Date:** _____ **Email:** _____

What can we be praying for you about?