

The Miracles of Jesus
Pastor Charles B. Jackson, Sr., Presenter

Miracle: "A Happening with Which Human Reasoning Has Yet To Catch Up."

-Dr. William Augustus Jones

Miracle #35 – Jesus Withers the Fig Tree
Matthew 21:18-22; Mark 11:12-14

- **Matthew 21:18-19**

The fig tree represents Israel, which had the appearance of bearing fruit, yet there were no figs among its leaves. Jesus cursed the tree not because of its failure to bear fruit, but because its appearance was a lie. It projected one thing on the outside, but was not productive on the inside. Just like the fig tree looked good from a distance, but was fruitless at close examination. So did Israel; the holy nation, God's chosen people. Looked impressive at first glance, but their sacrifices were hollow and empty because their hearts were not pure and their worship was not sincere.

- **John 15:1-7**

- **Matthew 21:20**

The disciples were amazed by the withering of the tree. Initially, the branches were healthy and the leaves were green. When Jesus declared that the tree would never again produce figs, immediately the branches became rotten and the leaves turned brown.

- **Matthew 21:21-22**

This is the only miracle in the Gospels where Jesus used His power to destroy rather than to heal and restore. He proceeds to give His disciples a lesson in prayer and would have them to know that there should be faith in prayer. They marveled that the fig tree withered before their very eyes. Jesus tells them that their problem is they do not have faith to believe that God can move in such a miraculous way.

Jesus says, "If you shall say unto this mountain." Often we think that Jesus is speaking of a literal mountain. Not so! In the 1st century, any great difficulty or seemingly impossible task was frequently referred to as a "mountain." Jesus was speaking metaphorically, reminding His disciples that God was able to do what human beings cannot. Therefore, we are to rely on Him and bring life's challenges to the Lord. We can have complete confidence that God will deal with the greatest of our difficulties, even though a way out may appear to be as impossible as commanding a mountain to move itself into the sea.

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Wednesday, November 14 – Offering

Noon	\$	124.98
Evening		91.90
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