

"The Only Miracle of Destruction"

Mark 11:11-26

1. Fruit is Expected. (v. 11)

The all-seeing eye of God Himself is constantly looking to see if His people are in His purpose. God is long-suffering.

2 Pet 3:9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

2. Fruit is Inspected. (v. 13)

Our Lord is not nearly as interested in pretensions as He is in results. He is constantly inspecting us for fruit and encourages us to do the same.

2 Cor 13:5 Test yourselves *to see* if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you--unless indeed you fail the test?

John 7:24 "Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment."

Matt 7:15-20 "Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. (16) "You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they? (17) "So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. (18) "A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. (19) "Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. (20) "So then, you will know them by their fruits.

3. Fruit Can Be Infected. (vs. 15-18)

Fruit that is infected by the very growers themselves is an abomination to God.

Matt: 23:13, 15 "But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you shut off the kingdom of heaven from people; for you do not enter in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in. (15) "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you travel around on sea and land to make one proselyte; and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves. See Matt. 18:5-10

4. Future Fruit is Rejected. (vs. 14, 20, 21)

There comes a time when God's patience runs out. **John 15:1-16; Gen. 1:11**

5. Fruitless Nations are Dejected. (vs. 22-26)

Entire nations and countries will be dejected by God if they do not abide in His will and purpose. If any nation, including the U.S.A. is not producing disciples of Christ, they can be removed from the playing field.

Matt 21:43 "Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people, producing the fruit of it

Rev 2:5 "Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place--unless you repent.