

THINK ON THESE THINGS (Philippians 4:8)

A Tree With No Fruit

OUR FAMILY NEWS

Pray: Terri Douthitt needs prayers. Cody's mom needs prayers. Herb Watson needs our prayers. Alice Stone still needs our prayers! For more information talk with her or Paul. Thad Douthitt is being deployed pray for his safety.

Traveling/Working: Slope workers.

Radio Program: Listen to "Searching the Scriptures", our weekly radio program, Sundays at 9am, on 99.7 FM.

Today's Scripture: "19 And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever. And presently the fig tree withered away." **Matthew 21:19 (KJV)**

Wisdom for Today: "2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."

Psalms 1:2-3 (KJV)

Attendance Last Sunday 68/56: Our Record: 107

For more detail, please go to the web site.

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September 1st, 2019 BULLETIN for the

Church of Christ AT WASILLA

God's Plan of Salvation

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Hear..... | Romans 10:17 |
| Believe..... | Mark 16:16, Hebrews 11:1-6 |
| Repent..... | Acts 2:38, II Corinthians 7:10 |
| Confess..... | Romans 10:9-10, Matthew 10:32-33 |
| Be Baptized | Mark 16:16, Acts 22:16 |
| Arise & Walk in Newness of Life | Romans 6:4 |

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth..."

CONTACT INFORMATION

MEETING TIMES

Sunday:

| | |
|----------------|------|
| Bible Classes: | 10AM |
| AM Worship: | 11AM |
| PM Worship: | 5PM |

Wednesday:

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| Bible Study: | 7PM |
|--------------|-----|

OFFICE HOURS

Tue./Thur. Call or Ck Web

COME JOIN US!

The church of Christ at Wasilla meets at:

2061 N. Merciful Circle
Wasilla, AK 99654
(907) 373-5773

Visit our website at:

www.churchofchristwasilla.com

Visitors Always Welcome; Members Expected

A Tree With No Fruit

We often read the account of Jesus and the fig tree in Matthew 21:19 and wonder what it means. It seems to be a passage out of context with no real lesson in it. Just the day before he had cast the money changers out of the temple and told the scribes and Pharisees "And said unto them, *It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.*"

Matthew 21:13 (KJV) After this, he began to heal the blind and lame causing children to sing praises to him and the scribes and Pharisees to become displeased. Then we read; "And said unto him, *Hearst thou what these say? And Jesus saith unto them, *Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise?*"* **Matthew 21:16 (KJV)**

After this he went to Bethany and the next day being hungry and seeing the fig tree he went over to it expecting to get a fig to eat. When he saw that the tree was barren he cursed it. The next day his disciples saw that the tree had withered they were amazed and Jesus took that opportunity to teach them about faith saying "Jesus answered and said unto them, *Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done. And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.*" **Matthew 21:21-22 (KJV)**

So what is the Holy Spirit trying to teach us by including this story in the word of God? The lesson we typically associate with this is one of faith. Jesus did teach the disciples about faith through this incident. After all he told them that if they had faith and didn't doubt they would be able to do what was done to the fig tree and, in addition, move mountains. Then he said that all things they asked in prayer fully believing they would receive. This is a wonderful lesson and one that should fill each of us with confidence. But it is not the only lesson we need to learn from this incident.

The fig tree appeared to be healthy and productive, but was barren of any fruit. In that state it was just taking up space where a more productive tree could have and should have been growing. In cursing it Jesus caused it to wither, showing its true character. A useless and unfruitful shell of a tree that is not worthy of occupying the space it was in. In that, it was like a lot of church goers today. They attend services on Sunday mornings and maybe on Sunday evenings and appear to be active Christians. But in reality, when inspected closely they have no fruit. And if we could see them in their real state, we would see a person withered and dying. Jude says this about them: "*These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots;*" **Jude 1:12 (KJV)**

By: Bill Beebe

But because they seem to be active and growing Christians, we trust them and sometimes allow them to become leaders in the congregation. After all they look healthy, they appear strong and they can pass a cursory inspection. But when inspected for fruit, they fail miserably. And because of this Jude says that they are trees whose "fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots;"

Paul tells us that all of us are expected to produce fruit, just like that fig tree along side the road Jesus traveled. Listen to him; **Romans 6:22 (KJV)** "*But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.*" **Romans 7:4 (KJV)**



"*Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.*"

And Paul even tells us what this fruit consist of. "²² *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,* ²³ *Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.* ²⁴ *And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.* ²⁵ *If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.* ²⁶ *Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.*" **Galatians 5:22-26 (KJV)** And then in **Ephesians 5:9-10 (KJV)** he says this "⁹ *(For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)* ¹⁰ *Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.*"

The question we need to ask ourselves today, and everyday, is **"Have we been productive for Gods kingdom today?"** Are we bearing fruit, or are we just a shell of a Christian. Fully formed on the outside, but within empty and without fruit; worthy only to be cursed so that our true nature can be revealed.