

## The Story of the Fig Tree

The next day as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry. 13 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. 14 Then he said to the tree, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard him say it. Mark 11:11-14

As they began to leaf after winter before the figs came in they will grow these little nodules, or nubs. And they were very good to eat and often times travelers would eat them.

So Jesus sees a fig tree in leaf and he walks over to it, and if you found a tree in leaf but without those nubs on it you'd know something, that it was diseased.

Jesus is actually giving us a little parable against hollow religiosity.

**How do you know that Jesus' character is being reproduced in you?**

*You're humbled by the gospel to know you are so bad he had to die for you, but emboldened by the Gospel to know you were so valuable to Him that He was glad to die for you.*

*If change isn't happening in you there is only one of two answers:*

1. You may think you understand the Gospel but you don't.
2. You haven't as yet crowned Him King over your life.

Sierra Community Church September 30th, 2012-Dan Wilvers



The story of the King... who came to serve.

**Part 32:**  
**How Jesus' Character Becomes your Character**  
Mark Chapter 11 verses 1-25

### The Triumphal Entry

As they approached Jerusalem ... Jesus sent two of his disciples, 2 saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. 3 If anyone asks you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.'" Mark 11:1-3

Look, your king is coming to you. He is righteous and victorious, yet he is humble, riding on a donkey—riding on a donkey's colt Zechariah 9:9

When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. 8 Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. 9 Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" Mark 11:7-9

### What's wrong of this picture?

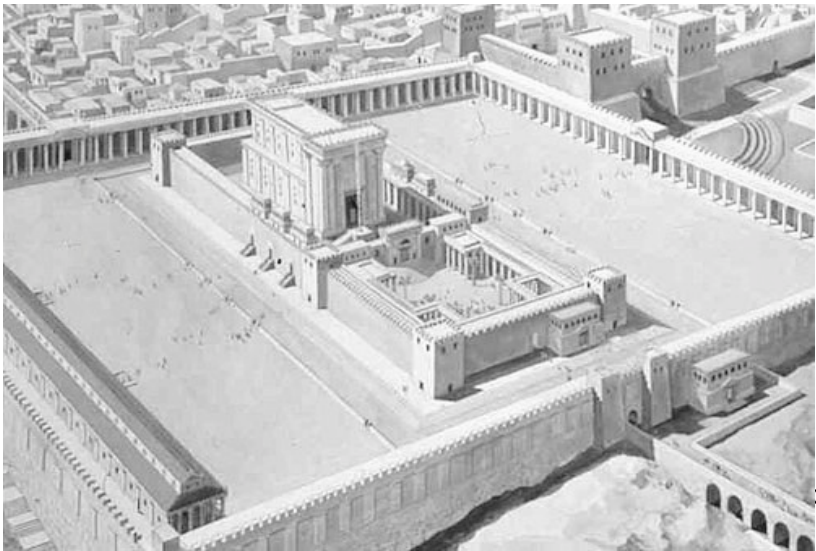
Jesus here is deliberately juxtaposing:

Jesus Christ combines character traits that would never be combined in any single person.

## The Cleansing of the Temple

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, 16 and would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts.  
Mark 11:15,16

Now if you or I were today to walk into Jesus temple the first area you'd walk into was known as the Court of the Gentiles.



**The Court of the Gentiles was the place where the other non-Jewish nations were supposed to find God.**

“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.  
Mark 11:17,18

## Historical Context of the Tabernacle/Temple and God’s Presence

After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life. Genesis 3:24

A flaming sword baring the way back into paradise and God’s presence.

And so what was the tabernacle and later the temple? It was the system God ordained for the sins of the nation of Israel to be forgiven. In the middle of the both the tabernacle and then the temple was a room called the Holy of Holies. A cube.

Only the high priest entered the smaller, inside tent, and then only once a year, offering a blood sacrifice for his own sins and the people’s accumulated sins. This was the Holy Spirit’s way of showing with a visible parable that as long as the large tent stands, people can’t just walk in on God. Under this system, the gifts and sacrifices can’t really get to the heart of the matter, can’t assuage the conscience of the people, but are limited to matters of ritual and behavior. It’s essentially a temporary arrangement until a complete overhaul could be made  
Hebrews 9:7-9

The High Priest alone enter here on Yom Kippur and then only if he’s carried a blood sacrifice. WHY? Because there was no way back into the presence of God without going under the sword.

But when Christ came as high priest ...he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not made with human hands, ... he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, 14 How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, ... cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!  
Hebrews 9:11-14