



TUESDAY

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"Faith, Fruit, & Forgiveness"

In our humanity, what we may call the "Monday morning blues" can set the stage for a Tuesday that seems void of any "fruitful work" to start the beginning of our week. This dynamic was never the case for our perfect Savior, Jesus! After cleansing the temple of hypocritical, religious money-changers the day before, Jesus focused on a "fig-less fig tree" in teaching His disciples several important spiritual lessons. With the Cross and the Father's will set before Him, His disciples needed some divine "fine tuning" for their personal lives. Thus, on Monday and Tuesday, He used a

basic fig tree to remind them of the importance of faith, fruit, and forgiveness.

[Click here to read Mark 11:20-25.](#)

As we move through this Easter week, may each of us be encouraged in asking the Lord to grow us in the realm of faith and trust in Him. The One who is always faithful reminds us through a fig tree encounter that "*without faith it is impossible to please God.*" ([Hebrews 11:6](#)) Testing of our faith comes in many forms--it is crucial to "*draw near to God; believe that He exists; and know that He rewards those who seek Him.*" ([Hebrews 11:6](#)) May this Tuesday find us depending on the Lord and not doubting as our genuine faith in God grows!

Additionally, may our focus be on our fruitfulness in Christ this day. The chief priests and scribes continued to question the authority of Jesus all the way to His crucifixion. Their religiosity, visible by dead works, was founded on external "doings" rather than an internal transformation of the heart by Christ. The fig tree illustrates lives that bear no eternal lasting fruit, neither in Christ-like character nor in the advancement of the kingdom of God. Through the lens of God's Holy Spirit, may we inspect the fruit of our lives. Is it spiritual and lasting? May God search our "fig tree" and find eternal fruit in our lives!

Finally, Jesus reminded his disciples to forgive--"if you have anything against anyone" ([Mark 11:25](#)). A barren fig tree illustrates the impossibility of a right fellowship with the Father if we have not forgiven our brothers and sisters. In our passage, the Son of God explains the absolute correlation of answered prayer to forgiveness. Our gracious and perfectly forgiving God emphasizes the need for us to forgive others in our "fig tree encounters." On this day, ask the Lord to help you FORGIVE others who have hurt, wounded, or wronged you.

Take time today and ask the Lord to develop in you deeper faith; richer fruit bearing; and quickness to forgive! On this Tuesday "fig-less day," Sunday's Resurrection Power is just a prayer away!