

## Faking Flgs - Sermon study on Matthew 21:18-22:14

### **problem:**

We are excellent liars -

Read Acts 1:24-25 -Remember that Judas did all the miracles, He was an apostle..and yet he went to hell. How is this a grave warning to us?

Read, Luke 12:1-5, to find out.

### **CPT:**

#### **Nothing but leaves (21:18-19)**

-Read Mark 11:12-14. based on this passage, why would Jesus expect figs on this tree even though He knew it was not the season for figs?

-Read John 9:39-41. what is worse than being blind? faking that you can see. Christ is the cure for blindness, but there is no cure for the one who pretends to see.

-Read Luke 5:29-32

This introduces **the main idea of the message:**

Christ cursed the fig tree, not because it was barren but because it was fake.

Our problem is not unrighteousness -there is a cure for that

Our problem is self-righteousness - for that there is no cure

#### **Real Fruit (21:20-22)**

-Read 1 John 5:14.

-What does answered prayer say about the one praying?

-Read Matthew 26:36-44.

-What kind of attitude does Jesus show as the necessary one when it comes to praying boldly?

-Read Hebrews 5:7-8.

-What attitude seems to be necessary to have the kind of prayer Jesus speaks about in Matthew 21:20-22? How does this differ from the attitude of the Pharisees?

-How does this differ from the attitude of the spiritual charlatans of our day?

-Notice that in Matthew 21:21, Jesus refers to THIS mountain. They were standing on the mount of olives when He spoke this.

-Read Zechariah 14:4-8. How does this give significance to Jesus statement here?

#### **Fake Fidelity to the Word (21:23-27)**

-Read Matthew 7:6.

-How does this demonstrate why Jesus did not answer them?

-The Pharisees and religious authorities were challenging Jesus' authority from the position that they were being faithful protectors of the Word. Their lack of belief and concern for what it actually said shows their heart. How could they ask by what authority when Jesus has done everything the Word said He would do?

-Read 1 Peter 2:2.

-don't we fake our fidelity to the Word too. How can we be Christians if we don't actually love and long for the Word? We need to repent.

-discuss with one another the difference between longing for the Word and being indifferent to it.

-Read 2 Timothy 2:15-16.

-How can pastors and teachers claim to actually love the Word and then to focus their time on irreverent babble?

-discuss how the first part of this study is a clear warning not to take ones position for granted.

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### Fake Obedience (21:28-32)

- Read Matthew 23:13-14.
- What were the Pharisees doing here?
- Read Colossians 2:21-22 and 2 Timothy 3:5.
- What were they teaching that caused them to be like the second son in this parable?

### Faking Fruitfulness (21:33-46)

- Read Isaiah 5:1-7.
- how does this shed light on this parable?
- Matthew 21:42 is a quote from Psalm 118:19-26. This psalm was quoted in Matthew 21:9, 12, 15-17, 23:37-39. The focus was on their temple rejection. Jesus will not come again until they fulfill the psalm literally.
- Jesus took away the kingdom from the fruitless and gave it to the fruitful. Read, Matthew 3:7-10. What does fruit have to do with repentance?
- Read Galatians 5:7-24. What fruit should follow a repentant heart?
- are you manifesting these things? If not, are you faking it?
- The sinner who "falls on the stone" in humility will be broken but saved, but the rebel who resists Christ will be crushed by the stone in judgment.

### faking righteousness (22:1-14)

- few are chosen. Read, Matthew 11:25-30.
- Who did Christ chose?
- C.S. Lewis said, "only bad people need to repent - only good people can do it."
- how might this shed light on this passage?
- the wedding guests were to be wearing a garment given by the host. Read, Romans 1:16-17; 3:21; 2 Corinthians 5:21 and Philippians 3:8-9.
- How does the righteousness of Christ explain this garment aspect of the parable?

### **Implication:**

Read, 2 Corinthians 13:5 and Lamentations 3:40. How should we apply this message?

### **Application:**

repent - non-believer -you need Christ

remain repentant - believer - you still need Christ

The Bible never verifies anyone's salvation by the past - there is no value in looking back to a time you repented if you are unrepentant now.

so what is your posture?

repentance is the posture of Christianity, and if you think you are living the Christian life but you are not characterized by this trait you are no different than the Pharisees

read the following articles and discuss how to apply this sermon tangibly to your lives.

<http://teampyro.blogspot.com/2010/10/repentance-fake-and-real.html>

<http://www.gty.org/resources/positions/p03/examine-yourself>