

Why did Jesus curse the Fig Tree?

A Disciple's Challenge!



'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 from now on no fruit anymore grow on you.' And currently the fig tree withered away. And when the disciples saw it, they marvelled, saying, 'How soon is the fig tree withered away!' Jesus said to them, 'Let me tell you honestly, If you have faith, and doubt not, you shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if you shall say to this mountain, You be removed, and be cast into the sea; it shall be done for you.' (Mat.21:19-21)

An interesting fact is that unlike other fruit trees, fig leaves and figs grow at the same time. So, if a tree is covered in leaves it should have fruits. **The trees don't have blossoms as the fig is the inverted flower of the tree.** The tree gives figs twice a year in spring and early autumn.

Jesus came to the tree just before Passover which is in springtime and although the tree had grown new leaves, it should have had figs but it had none, which caused Jesus to curse the tree.

This shows two things that Jesus although he was the embodiment of God the Father, he was also 100% human and hungry. Secondly the tree leaves represent our works and what we do for the Lord, but if all our works have no fruit, then in reality we are becoming a pretty useless tree for the orchard owner.



It is fruit that the owner is looking for.

He spoke also this parable, 'A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none. Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Look, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why let it cumber the ground?' And he answering said unto him, 'Lord, let it alone this year also, till **I shall dig about it, and dung it:** And if it bears fruit, well: and if not, then after that you should cut it down.' (Luke 13:6-9)

The Lord says, 'Many are called many but few are chosen.' They are chosen because they themselves have chosen to do what the Lord wants them to do. However, many of us feel the tug on our heart but decide to wait on the Lord. I have heard people say several times when they were asked, 'How is it going?' 'Oh, it is not clear to me if or when I should start, so I am waiting on the Lord.' But could waiting become an excuse for not moving ahead with what [the Lord has told us](#); whether it's to '[Forgive](#)' or 'Follow him and become fishers of men.' (Mat.4:19)

How to get started with what the Lord asks of us. Are we willing to do what the Lord requests of us? Many of us think that if the Lord wants me to start on this way of discipleship or to commence on this project then he first needs to supply the means, the funds, the openings or the place because then I know that it is of him. But is that putting the seeing before the believing? Let's take a look at his word.

The ten lepers were only healed after they went on their way. They believed what Jesus had told them and went on their way doing what he instructed them to do and when they believed and obeyed then the Lord healed them, because it says, 'As they went, they were healed.'

This is so contrary to our natural reasoning; 'How can I go? Last time they threw stones at me and they will do it again to get me out of town.' They overcame their rationality and fears, and simply obeyed what the Lord had told them.



I always admired the blind man that went and washed himself.

Do you realize that Jesus spat on the dirty, dusty ground and mixed his saliva with the dirt? He then smeared this 'yucky' mix on the blind man's eyes and told him to go and wash it off.

Most of us would not think that he was handling a disabled person in a politically correct way. **The man had every reason to object** of the way he was treated by the Lord.

Instead of objecting, he obeyed.

He passed the test; he went and washed it off and as a result he came back seeing. Now this blind man wasn't a weak-minded pushover, as later on he put the priests and theologians in their place. He believed what the Lord had told him to do; he did what was requested of him, and he was healed.

I'll never forget one of the times that I was arguing with the Lord. He had showed me to start a project by building in a certain place.

'Lord, but we don't have the money.'

'That's not true, you have.'

'Lord, but that is only enough for the foundation.'



‘Good, then you have money to start... so you start.’
 ‘But Lord what about where you said, ‘For which of you, intending to build a tower, sits not first down, and counts the cost, whether he has sufficient to finish it? Lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it. (Luke 14:28-30) Lord, what if it fails? It’s the donations that you inspired people to give, then it’s your money that is wasted.’

‘Whose money did you say it was?’
 ‘Yours, Lord.’

‘So then let me decide and you go ahead and start. You step out of your comfort zone, out of your little boat and step out on the water.’

‘Okay, my Lord, will do, but I will refuse to borrow money and go into debt.’

‘Who said you would? Just be wise and check back with me about the expenditures.’

He didn’t fail, he supplied as the need arose and now the Lord has an inspiring work going there. He says, ‘In all your ways acknowledge me, and I shall direct your paths.’ (Proverb 3:6) So what is the path of obedience that he asked us to take?

I had to get over that ‘seeing-is-believing’ disability. But like Simon Peter I had to step out of the boat and walk on the water to go to Jesus. Else would I have been putting the cart in front of the horse?



We’ve only received few donations. We’re stuck. Nothing moves. I give up. God must not be in it.

If we are not sure, but feel that the Lord is urging us to do a certain thing, then the following prayer might help.
 “Dear Jesus, please guide me in this, I have the inkling that this is of you, so I will proceed as if possessing, but you will have to do the miracles of finances, changing hearts, etc. However, if for some unknown reason to me it is not your will, then I trust that you will put a stop to it and block it.”

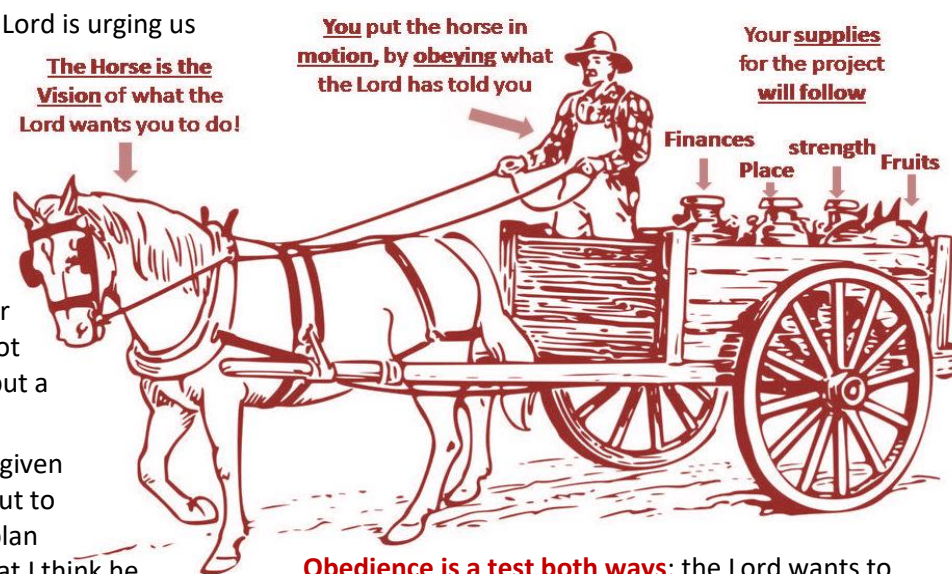
This makes it simple, as now I have given the responsibility, of what I am about to do, back to the Lord. I can put the plan into motion and go the direction that I think he wants me to take, as the saying goes ‘the ship has to be in motion before the rudder can take effect.’ This can be anything from buying a car or house, starting an orphanage, adopting a child, choosing a marriage partner, to accepting a job, etc.

Then if the Lord closes the door, we should not be disappointed and upset with the Lord, but happy that he answered our prayer and kept us safe from unforeseen difficulties and possible future trouble.

There are so many examples throughout the Bible:

- * **Noah** had to build a boat, so he could survive the greatest ecological disaster ever: [the flood](#).
- * **Joshua** had to get off his face and move ahead into the promised land, so the Lord could go to work.
- * **The priests** had to step into the Jordan, so when their feet touched the water, the waters divided.
- * **David** had to run with sling towards Goliath, so the Lord could guide the stone and slay the giant.
- * **The disciples** had to roll the stone away, so the Lord could raise Lazarus from the dead.
- * **The lame** had to get up, so they could walk.

One after the other had to step out by faith and put the Lord on the spot to do the impossible. He seems to specialise in impossibilities.



Obedience is a test both ways; the Lord wants to see if we are willing to do what he tells us to do, and we put the Lord on the spot to see if he will do his part. The Lord is thrilled when we put him on the spot and ‘He gives the Holy Spirit to them that obey.’ (Acts 5:32) Along with the fruits of the Spirit.

A Prayer:

“Dear Jesus, I have made promises to you that I did not follow through on. I remember when I failed to be a witness for you. Pls erase that procrastination from my heart and give me as king David prayed, ‘a heart that pants after you and only desires to do your will above all.’ Now I humbly request that you, as the fig tree dresser, dig about in my heart and fertilise my tree, so that with my leaves of works I can simultaneously bear fruit for you and our [Kingdom](#). This I desire above all.”

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