

Nothing But Leaves

There is a story from Jesus' life where he cursed a fig tree for having no fruit, just leaves. He wanted fruit and found "nothing but leaves" (Matthew 21:18-22; Mark 11:12-14, 20-24). One important lesson that comes from this story is that Jesus is seeking fruit and when he finds none, he curses what is supposed to bear fruit.

As Christians, we must be careful not to offer words without works, or a profession without performance. We need to be careful that we are not "all talk and no action" (James 2:14ff). We need to be careful that we have no fruit, just leaves. Jesus, because he was human, was hungry and came seeking fruit on this tree and he is still seeking "fruit" from his disciples today (John 15:1-8, 16).

Question, are we "going to" worship, but not really worshipping in spirit and truth (John 4:24)? Are we "taking" the L.S., but not discerning the body and blood (1 Corinthians 11:27-29)? Are we "commending" the sermon, but not applying it (Ezekiel 33:30-32; James 1:22-25)? Are we "sorry" and remorseful about living wrong, but not doing anything to change it (2 Corinthians 7:10)?

Jesus cursed the unproductive fig tree for having no fruit and he will curse the unproductive Christian for having no fruit (Matthew 7:19; John 15:2,6). What about your life, is it fruitful, or "nothing but leaves"? - *Chris Reeves*

News & Notes

Please mark your calendar with the following important dates...

May 26: Ladies' Bible class, 11 am, church building, lesson 6.

June 4-8: VBS

Warfield Blvd. church of Christ
290 Warfield Blvd.
Clarksville, TN 37043

Website
WBCOC.org

Assembly Times
Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 6 pm
Wednesday: 7 pm

Everyone Is Welcome!
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THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

It is true that God wants us to believe in him. The author of the book of Hebrews writes that in order to come to God, we “must believe that he is” (Hebrews 11:6). But, God also wants to believe in you. God wants you to be saved from sin and remain faithful to him throughout your life, and he believes you can do it. Now, does God believe in you more than you believe in yourself? Let’s consider a few people in the Bible whom God believed in.

God Believed in Job

God believed in Job and allowed Satan to test Job (Job 1:8; 2:3). God believed that righteous Job could resist Satan and that is just what Job did (Job 1:20-22; 2:10). In the same way, God believes you can resist Satan, sin, and temptation, and he gives you the help to do that (1 Corinthians 10:13; 2 Timothy 2:22; James 4:7).

God Believed in Abraham

God believed in Abraham that he would obey God and teach his children to obey God (Genesis 18:19). God believed that faithful Abraham would properly teach his children and that is just what Abraham did. In the same way, God believes you can be a good parent and teach your children God’s word (Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:1-4).

God Believed in Peter

Jesus, God’s son, believed that Peter could return to him after denying him and so he prayed for Peter (Luke 22:31-34). Jesus believed that impetuous Peter could repent, return, and do good, and that is just what Peter did (Acts 2 and 10). In the same way, God believes you can repent, return, and do good (Luke 15:1ff; Acts 2:38; 2 Corinthians 7:9-11).

God Believed in Paul

Jesus, God’s son, believed that Saul of Tarsus (the apostle Paul) could change his life and come to Jesus (Acts 9:13-15). Jesus believed that violent Paul could change and be converted and that is just what Paul did (1 Timothy 1:12-16). In the same way, Jesus believes you can change and be converted (Matthew 21:28-31; Acts 2:37; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

God Believes in You

God and Jesus believed in all of these individuals and he believes in you too. Why did God sacrifice his own Son, Jesus, for the whole world (John 3:16)? Why did Jesus send out his apostles to preach the gospel to the whole world (Mt. 28:19; Mk. 16:15)? Why were people told to save themselves (Acts 2:40; Philipians 2:12)? The answer: because God believes in you.

Why in the New Testament are we given divine instructions for proper Christian living (Romans through Revelation)? Why are indi-

viduals, families, and local churches told how to behave? Why are Christians told how to act in their community, at work, and with the civil government? The answer: because God believes in you.

Lessons Learned

What are some lessons that we can learn from this? Well, first of all, we should believe in ourselves more than we do. We should believe that we can faithfully obey God and get up and do it.

Second, we should never make light of sin (1 John 3:4-9). Sin is a transgression of God’s law found in the Bible and God will hold us accountable for violating his law.

Third, we should never forget who is fighting for us — God (1 John 4:4). God wants us to overcome Satan and he gives us the power to do just that.

Finally, we should never make excuses for not obeying God (1 John 5:2-3). God never asks anything of us that we cannot do. Let us not excuse our disobedience.

God believed in Job when he asked Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job?” (Job 1:8). If God were to ask that same question again today, would he say, “Have you considered my servant (fill in your name)?” Friend, God believes in you! Now, believe in yourself, get up, and obey God today. - Chris Reeves