

**Mark 11:12-14**  
The Barren Fruit In Israel

Presented By Eric Douma  
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**The Significance of The Fig Tree**

A. Fig Tree: Found with no fruit (11:12-14)  
B. Temple: Israel has no fruit (11:15-19)  
A. Fig Tree: Found withered from root up (11:20-21)

Mark 7:6 And he said to them, Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me...

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**The Symbolic Barren Fig Tree**

Mark 11:12-13 On the next day, when they had left Bethany, He became hungry. Seeing at a distance a fig tree in leaf, He went to see if perhaps He would find anything on it; and when He came to it, He found nothing but leaves for it was not the season for figs.

- ▶ Early Buds = Late March
- ▶ Real Figs = August - October

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**The Majority In Israel Would Not Bear Fruit**

Mark 11:14 He said to it, **May no one ever eat fruit from you again!** And His disciples were listening.

Mark 11:18 The chief priests and the scribes heard this, and began **seeking how to destroy Him**; for they were afraid of Him, for the whole crowd was astonished at His teaching.

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**Applications**

1. We must believe that Israel is culpable for their barrenness while knowing that this is also God's plan designed for the good of the elect.
2. We must understand that there is a need for people to **bear fruit** if they belong to Christ.

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**1. Israel's Barrenness And God's Plan**

➤ **Hardening of Israel Leads To Gentile Inclusion**

Romans 11:11 I say then, they did not stumble so as to fall, did they? May it never be! But **by their transgression** salvation has come to the Gentiles, to make them jealous.

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**1. Israel's Barrenness And God's Plan**

**> Gentile Inclusion Designed To Make Israel Jealous**

Deuteronomy 32:21 ¶They have made Me jealous with what is not God; They have provoked Me to anger with their idols. **So I will make them jealous with those who are not a people;** I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nationō

Romans 11:25-26a I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery- so that you will not be wise in your own estimation- that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; and so **all Israel** will be savedō

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**2. The Necessity Of Bearing Good Fruit**

Matthew 7:15-17, 20 ¶Beware of the **false prophets**, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. **You will know them by their fruits.** Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they? So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruitō So then, **you will know them by their fruits.**+

Fruit = Doctrine/Works

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**2. The Necessity Of Bearing Good Fruit**

Matthew 7:21-23 ¶Not everyone who says to Me, **Lord, Lord,** will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. ¶Many will say to Me on that day, **Lord, Lord,** did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles? ¶And then I will declare to them, **I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.**

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**2. How Do We Bear Fruit?**

2 Peter 1:5-8 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, **in your faith** supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, **love**. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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**2. How Do We Bear Fruit?**

2 Peter 1:12-13 Therefore, I will always be ready to **remind you** of these things, even though you already know them, and have been established in the truth which is present with you. I consider it right, as long as I am in this earthly dwelling, to stir you up **by way of reminder**

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