

# The Lesson from a Fig Tree

**Text:** Matthew 21:18-22

## **Introduction:**

1. Jesus taught many spiritual things by using illustrations in nature to make the point.
2. In this particular instance of the fig tree, Jesus used it as an illustration on faith.
  - a. He did this by telling the fig tree that it would no longer have any fruit forevermore. (v19)
  - b. We must remember that Christ has the power over nature - for He is the Creator. (Matthew 8:27; John 1:1-3)
3. The point that Jesus was making was raising the question as to: *How strong is your faith?*
  - a. This must be answered by each and every one of us today.
  - b. This very question raises many other questions that we must also ask, because they all have something to do with our faith in God.
4. *So the question today is: How Strong Is Your Faith?*

## **I. Do we doubt?**

- A. Doubt about the promises? (Isaiah 59:1; 2 Peter 1:3-4, 3:9)
- B. Doubt about the Truth? (John 14:6; James 1:18; 1 John 4:6)
- C. Doubt about Christ coming to redeem us? (Titus 2:14; 1 Peter 1:18)
- D. Doubt about the resurrection? (Matthew 26:32, 28:6; Romans 8:34)
- E. Doubt about the judgment? (Psalms 9:8; Romans 2:2; Romans 14:10; Hebrews 9:27)
- F. Doubt about life after the grave? (John 5:28-29, 11:25)
- G. Doubt about eternal life? (Titus 1:2; 1 John 2:24-25)

## **II. Do we ask in prayer?**

- A. To our Father who is in heaven? (1 Peter 5:7)
  - i. About our doubts? (Matthew 14:27-31)
  - ii. About our little faith? (Luke 17:5-6)
  - iii. About our frailties? (Psalm 39:4-8)
  - iv. About our infirmities? (Matthew 8:17; Romans 8:26)
    - v. About our temptations? (Matthew 26:41)
    - vi. About our fears and worries? (Psalm 55:22)
1. Of our tomorrows. (Matthew 6:34)
2. Of the evil that surrounds us. (Psalm 23:4, 37:1)
3. Of the unknown. (Matthew 10:29-31)

### III. Do we believe in our prayer To God?

- A. In our God in that He will deliver? (1 Corinthians 10:13; James 1:2-4)
- B. In our God in that He will help us? (Matthew 21:21-22)
- C. In our God in that He cares about us? (Luke 12:22-31)
- D. In our God that He will fulfill His promises? (Hebrews 7:25)

#### Conclusion:

1. Jesus has told us in the illustration about the fig tree:
  - a. Let your requests be known unto God (Philippians 4:6)
  - b. That we must not have any doubt in our faith (Hebrews 11:6)
  - c. That we must ask of the Father who is in heaven to increase our faith.
  - d. That we must believe that what we ask is according to God's Will and that our prayers will be answered - and yes 'no' is one of the answers to our prayers.
2. That Jesus is our one and only mediator; (1 Timothy 2:5) and only through Him can we go to the Father who is in heaven (John 14:6).
3. That our God will help us in our time of need (Isaiah 41:13)
  - a. Because, if God be for us who can be against us? (Romans 8:31)
  - b. Because, I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Philippians 4:13)