

CONFRONTED

BY
GOD

MATTHEW 24:18-32

What Is Christ Looking For?

Luke 18:8

**I tell you that he will avenge them speedily.
Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he
find faith on the earth?**

Matthew 8:10

**When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them
that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found
so great faith, no, not in Israel.**

Matthew 15:27

**And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the
crumbs which fall from their masters' table.**

What Is Christ Looking For?

faith

What Is Christ Finding?

Hosea 9:10

I found Israel like grapes in the wilderness; I saw your fathers as the firstripe in the fig tree at her first time: but they went to Baalpeor, and separated themselves unto that shame; and their abominations were according as they loved.

I. God Confronts Unfruitfulness

Matthew 21:18-22

18 Now in the morning as he returned into the city, he hungered.

19 And 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 no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever. And presently the fig tree withered away.

20 And when the disciples saw it, they marvelled, saying, How soon is the fig tree withered away!

I. God Confronts Unfruitfulness

Matthew 21:21-22 - continued

21 Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done.

22 And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

I. God Confronts Unfruitfulness

- A. Christ is looking for fruit
- B. The fig tree looked good but no fruit found
- C. The tree judged for not fulfilling its purpose
 - Are we fulfilling our purpose for God?
- D. The application
 - 1. Israel judged for unfruitfulness
 - 2. The disciples encouraged to exercise faith

John 15:1-8

1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

John 15:1-8 - continued

5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

II. God Confronts Unbelief

Matthew 21:23-27

23 And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority?

24 And Jesus answered and said unto them, I also will ask you one thing, which if ye tell me, I in like wise will tell you by what authority I do these things.

II. God Confronts Unbelief

Matthew 21:23-27 - continued

25 The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men? And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say unto us, Why did ye not then believe him?

26 But if we shall say, Of men; we fear the people; for all hold John as a prophet.

27 And they answered Jesus, and said, We cannot tell. And he said unto them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things.

II. God Confronts Unbelief

A. The religious crowd challenges Christ

B. Their question reveals their problem

John 10:38

But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him.

C. Christ's question confirms their spiritual condition

You cannot hide your heart or thoughts from God

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

III. God Confronts Disobedience

Matthew 21:28-32

28 But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard.

29 He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went.

30 And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not.

III. God Confronts Disobedience

Matthew 21:28-32 - continued

31 Whether of them twain did the will of his father?

**They say unto him, The first. Jesus saith unto them,
Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the
harlots go into the kingdom of God before you.**

**32 For John came unto you in the way of
righteousness, and ye believed him not: but the
publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when
ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might
believe him.**

III. God Confronts Disobedience

A. The issue: Repentance or Religion

B. Repentance leads to obedience

C. Religion leads nowhere



1 John 3:18-21

18 My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

19 And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him.

20 For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.

21 Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.

**Is God Confronting
You Today?**