

**“THE MYSTERY OF THE FIG TREE”**  
**THE DANGER OF NOT HAVING 20/20 VISION**  
**MARK 11:12-25**  
**WBC SERMON NOTES 19/01/2019**

---

INTRODUCTION:

As we embark on our spiritual journey of 2020, it is essential that each of us have a clear spiritual vision of where we are and where the Lord wants us.

MARK 11:12- 14

MARK 11: 20 -25

It is easy to miss the main point that the author of Scripture is making.  
The Markan sandwich

MARK 11:15 – 19

The main point of Mark 11: 12-25 is:

Three lessons:

- A lesson on f..... – v11-14 – failure to produce spiritual fruit
- A lesson on f..... – v15 -19 distracted by all kinds of things
- A lesson on f..... – v20-25 – instruction on how to overcome the mountains – those seemingly ... ..... in our lives

**There are particular dangers in not having a clear spiritual vision.**

**In our text we have 3 warnings:**

**1.. The danger of P..... but not P..... (v12-14)**

There is the danger of offering much but delivering little.

**(i) Jesus disappointment (v12,13)**

The lesson: Jesus is still looking for ..... from His people.

We must be careful to cultivate our ..... and not settle for .....

**John 15:5**

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

**John 15:16**

“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.”

**(ii) Jesus declaration (v13)**

Because the tree was barren, Jesus pronounced a curse on it.

The lack of fruit was not the reason for the curse, rather it was

.....

Jesus made an effort to check the tree’s fruit. Likewise, He will come and

..... our fruit as well.

**(iii) Jesus demonstration (v20)**

The tree dried up from the .....

John the Baptist's message of judgement to Israel (Matthew 3:10)  
***"And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire"***

How are your roots?

## **2. The danger of P..... but not P..... (v15-19)**

There is a danger of attending worship, but not meeting with God

The outermost court of the Jerusalem temple was the court of the Gentiles, where anyone could go. It was separated from the inner courts by a low wall, which anyone could walk over. Inscribed on tablets on this wall was the penalty of death for anyone other than a Jew who crossed over it. The Court of the Gentiles was the only place a non-Jew could worship God.

It was meant to be a place of P ..... and P.....

but it had become commercialized, which made prayer impossible.

To make matters worse, pilgrims and worshippers from all over were being exploited by Annas, the previous high priest, and businessmen who paid him.

- Half sheckle temple tax
- The sacrifice (dove)

Jesus strong words: "a den of thieves"

Jesus main point – quoting Isaiah 56:7

**'My house will be called a house of .....of .....**

Isaiah 29:13 The Lord says: "These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me

### 3. The danger of P..... but not P..... (v20-25)

The challenge of knowing the truth but lacking the power

## Three takeaways

1. God calls you to be a ..... and not just a .....

Hebrews 11:6 “And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.”

2. Do outsiders see our church as a .....of .....?

3. Do you have the expectation that God can .....  
.....?

A closing Prayer: Ephesians 3:16-21