

# ***WHY DID THE FIG TREE HAVE TO DIE?***



*The Withered Fig Tree...Melani Pyke*

***And seeing a fig tree by the wayside he went to it, and found nothing on it but leaves only. And he said to it, "May no fruit ever come from you again!" And the fig tree withered at once.***

***Matthew 21:19***

Many people dismiss Jesus as “inadequate for today’s world” because he’s just “too nice.”

In a world where politicians lie, and dictators snuff out their enemies, and billionaires call the shots, who needs “nice”?

We need some backbone, some steel, a leader with clout!

Jesus is just too nice!

Is he?

Maybe your Jesus is “nice”.

But the Jesus who roamed the hills of Galilee and drove the bankers out of the Temple with a whip was far from “nice”.

When Jesus proclaimed the Kingdom of God, he backed up his words with signs.  
Awesome signs.

He healed the sick, opened the eyes of the blind, cast out demons, raised the dead.

Every one of these signs was a manifestation of a power unknown to this world:  
the power of the World to Come.

Jesus was far from “nice.”

On his final visit to Jerusalem Jesus came upon a fig tree that had leaves but no figs. He cursed it with such power that it dried up from the roots.

Jesus was hardly “nice” to the fig tree.

## **But why did that poor fig tree have to die?**

Every sign Jesus performed burned with a message. This sign was no exception.

It happened on his way to the Temple, which was indeed a “fig tree with leaves but no fruit.”

It could be a church with leaves but no fruit.

It could be me, or you, with leaves but no fruit.

The same Lord who heals the sick and opens the eyes of the blind expects those who follow him to produce more than “leaves”.

When we say, “Lord, Lord,” that’s leaves.

When we do the Father’s will, that’s fruit.

Jesus is incarnate mercy.

Jesus is fathomless love.

But Jesus is far from “nice.”

**He burns with holy fire.**

And Jesus makes clear.....

***“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but she/he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven”***

***Matthew 7:21***

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*Prayer: Father of Truth rescue us from pursuing lies, from being deceived by the father of lies who calls our hearts and minds to dark paths, to fruitless pursuits, fruitless thoughts, fruitless lives. May we not be like the fruitless fig tree... looking alive but unable to bring nourishment. What a waste of your gift, your life, all you offer...no wonder the fig tree withered, no wonder you cursed it. Lord wake us up, keep us pursuing your life giving truth, seeking you with all that we have, seeking to be truly your obedient and loving disciples ...so that we truly can bring your nourishment to the hungry and needy of this world and be repulsed by anything that turns us from this pursuit.*



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