

Praying for More Than Leaves
Matthew 21:18-22

Why does Jesus curse the fig tree?

Why does Jesus curse the fig tree?

What is the mountain that is thrown into the sea?

Why does Jesus curse the fig tree?

What is the mountain that is thrown into the sea?

What is the point Jesus is making?



Agricultural question -
Why does Jesus curse the fig tree?

Jesus never did another **destructive miracle.**

Jesus never allowed **his appetite** to drive his agenda.

“My food is to do the will of him who sent me”

John 4:34

Jesus cursed a figless tree during the season
when fig trees **don't produce figs.**

Jesus cursed a figless tree during the season when fig trees **don't produce figs**.

“he found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs”

Mark 11:13b



early figs (paggim) – early spring



later figs (te'anim) - late summer

* Jesus curses the figless fig tree for having **beautiful leaves**, giving the **appearance** of **fruitfulness**, but not actually **bearing fruit!**

Geographical question -

What is the mountain Jesus is referring to?

“How did the fig tree wither at once?” (20)

“And Jesus answered them, ‘Truly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain,’

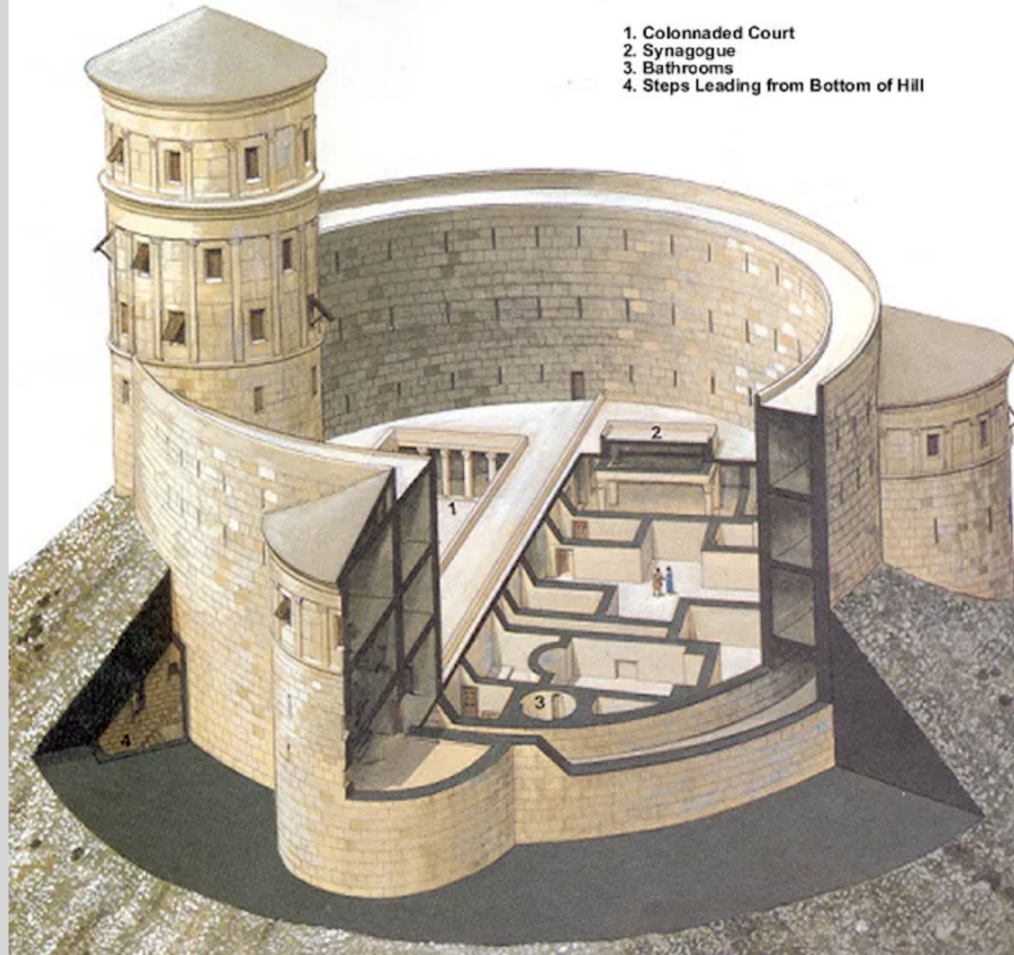
““Be taken up and thrown into the sea,” it will happen. And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith.” (21-22)

What is “this mountain”?



Option #1 - **Herodium**

1. Colonnaded Court
2. Synagogue
3. Bathrooms
4. Steps Leading from Bottom of Hill





©BiblePlaces.com



Option #2 - Mount of Olives

“Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations as when he fights on a day of battle.

“On that day his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives that lies before Jerusalem on the east,

“and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two from east to west by a very wide valley, so that one half of the Mount shall move northward, and the other half southward.”

Zechariah 14:3-4



Option #3 - **Temple Mount**

Theological question - What is the point?

A call to **repent of hypocrisy**

A call to **repent of hypocrisy**

“He went to it and found nothing on it but only leaves.” (19b)

What are some signs that I am more interested in leaves than fruit?

“This is not the worst thing to ever happen!
Cancer is so limited.

“It cannot cripple love, shatter hope, corrode
faith, eat away peace,

“destroy confidence, kill friendship, shut out memories, silence courage, quench the Spirit or lessen the power of Jesus.”

Margaret

“And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: ‘The words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars.

“I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead.

“Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God.

“Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent.

“If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you.”

Revelation 3:1-3

A call to repent of hypocrisy

A call to **pray in faith**

“And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith.” (22)

confidence

confidence vs. dependence

“And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith.” (22)

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.”

Matthew 7:7

“Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.”

Jeremiah 33:3

“When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears and delivers them out of all their troubles.”

Psalm 34:17

“Your will be done, on earth as it is in
heaven.”

Matthew 6:10b

“Do not be like them for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.”

Matthew 6:8

“My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.”

Matthew 26:39b

“And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us.”

1 John 5:14

* We are being invited to pray extravagantly big prayers, completely dependent on our good Father.

I have been presenting myself as _____.

I have been presenting myself as _____.

But in actuality, I have been _____.

I have been presenting myself as _____.
But in actuality, I have been _____.
I repent of this. I am asking our Father
through the gospel of Jesus to _____.