

## Lesson VI. THE BARREN FIG TREE AND THE DEFILED TEMPLE—TEMPERANCE LESSON August 9, 1914

**BETWEEN THE LESSONS**—On the evening of Sunday, April 2, A.D. 30, Jesus returned from Jerusalem to Bethany to spend the night. On Monday morning He returned to Jerusalem. Vs. 12-19 belong to this day, and vs. 20-26 to the following morning.

**GOLDEN TEXT**—By their fruits ye shall know them.—Matthew 7 : 20.

Memorize vs. 22, 23. **THE LESSON PASSAGE**—Mark 11 : 12-26. Study Mark 11 : 12-33. Read Matthew 21 : 12-32.

12 And on the morrow, when they were come from Bethany, he was hungry :

13 And seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find any thing thereon : and when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves ; for <sup>12</sup> the time of figs was not yet.

14 And <sup>13</sup> Jesus answered and said unto it, No man eat fruit of thee <sup>14</sup> hereafter for ever. And his disciples heard it.

15 And they come to Jerusalem : and <sup>15</sup> Jesus went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold and <sup>16</sup> bought in the temple, and overthrowed the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold <sup>17</sup> doves ;

16 And <sup>18</sup> would not suffer that any man should carry <sup>19</sup> any vessel through the temple.

17 And he taught, <sup>20</sup> saying unto them, Is it not written, My house shall be called <sup>21</sup> of all nations the house of prayer ? but ye have made it a den of <sup>22</sup> thieves.

18 And <sup>23</sup> the scribes and chief priests heard it, and sought how they might destroy him : for they feared him, <sup>24</sup> because all the people was astonished at his <sup>25</sup> doctrine.

**Revised Version**—<sup>1</sup> out from : <sup>2</sup> hungered ; <sup>3</sup> it was not the season of figs ; <sup>4</sup> he : <sup>5</sup> from ; <sup>6</sup> henceforward ; <sup>7</sup> he entered ; <sup>8</sup> them that : <sup>9</sup> the : <sup>10</sup> a vessel ; <sup>11</sup> and said ; <sup>12</sup> a house of prayer for all the nations ; <sup>13</sup> robbers ; <sup>14</sup> chief priests and the scribes ; <sup>15</sup> for all the multitude ; <sup>16</sup> teaching ; <sup>17</sup> every evening he went forth out ; <sup>18</sup> as they passed by in the morning ; <sup>19</sup> withered away from ; <sup>20</sup> Rabbi ; <sup>21</sup> Omit For ; <sup>22</sup> Omit that ; <sup>23</sup> taken up and cast ; <sup>24</sup> what he saith cometh to pass ; <sup>25</sup> it ; <sup>26</sup> All things whatsoever ye pray and ask for, believe that ye have received them ; <sup>27</sup> whensoever ; <sup>28</sup> ought ; <sup>29</sup> one ; <sup>30</sup> Omit whole verse.

**Daily Readings**—(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association, Mr. S. C. Bailey, Hon. Secretary, 56 Old Bailey, London, England.)—M.—The barren fig tree and the defiled temple, Mark 11 : 12-14, 20-26. T.—The barren fig tree and the defiled temple, Mark 11 : 15-19, 27-33. W.—The barren fig tree and the defiled temple, Luke 13 : 6-9. Th.—“By their fruits,” Matt. 7 : 7-20. F.—“The fruit of righteousness,” James 3 : 11-18. S.—Jeremiah’s warning, Jer 7 : 1-11. S.—“Fruit in its season,” Ps. 1.

### THE LESSON EXPLAINED

**I. THE FRUITLESS FIG TREE.**—13, 14. On the morrow. See Between the Lessons. From Bethany ; on the way to Jerusalem. Hungry. It may be that He had spent the night in fasting and prayer.



ORIENTAL MONEYCHANGER

Fig tree ; which is cultivated from one end of Palestine to the other. Having leaves ; these begin to appear about the end of March. Find any thing thereon ; looking for the tiny immature figs which appear along with the leaves and are sometimes eaten. Nothing but leaves. So in the Jewish nation Jesus did not

19 And <sup>20</sup> when even was come, he went out of the city.

20 And <sup>21</sup> in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree <sup>22</sup> dried up from the roots.

21 And Peter calling to remembrance saith unto him, <sup>23</sup> Master, behold, the fig tree which thou cursedst is withered away.

22 And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.

23 <sup>24</sup> For verily I say unto you, <sup>25</sup> That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou <sup>26</sup> removed, and be thou cast into the sea ; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that <sup>27</sup> those things which he saith shall come to pass ; he shall have <sup>28</sup> whatsoever he saith.

24 Therefore I say unto you, <sup>29</sup> What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

25 And <sup>30</sup> when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have <sup>31</sup> ought against any : that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

26 But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.

find the fruit of love and obedience to God. Not the season of figs (Rev. Ver.) ; that is, of fully ripe figs, found in June. But the absence of unripe figs showed that the tree was barren. No man eat fruit, etc. Jesus meant to teach how the Jewish nation would be punished for failing to bear fruit.

**II. THE DEFILED TEMPLE.**—15-19. Into the temple ; that is, the outer court of the temple, called the Court of the Gentiles into which others than Jews were admitted. Sold and bought ; animals, incense, oil and other things required for sacrifice. Tables. See Illustration. Moneychangers ; who exchanged the money brought by pilgrims from foreign countries for the Jewish money required to pay the temple tax. Doves ; the offering of the poor, who were not able to bring sheep and oxen (see Lev. 5 : 7). Carry a vessel (Rev. Ver.) ; utensils or gear of any sort. People were making the sacred place a short cut in the common business of the city. Is it not written. See Isa. 56 : 7 ; Jer. 7 : 11. My house a house of prayer (Rev. Ver.) ; a place for worship, not for gain. For all the nations (Rev. Ver.) ; Gentiles as well as Jews, as the appointment of the Court of the Gentiles showed. Den of robbers (Rev. Ver.) ; like the hillside caves of Judea in which bandits dwelt.