

Tensions are heating up once again in Jerusalem. Metal detectors confronted Muslims who came to pray at the Mosque on the Temple Mount. Two Israeli security guards had been murdered behind the Mosque. Anger, accusations, and demonstrations followed. Once again, chaos surrounded that site intended to be a house of prayer. Think back to the scene unfolding before the crowds that followed Jesus to that very place as He entered the Holy City. It was preceded by His disappointment with a fig tree that represented His people. It reminds us of His anger over anything that competes for our love and devotion to Him. It urges us to reflect on how we approach our mountains of concern in prayer.

Righteous Disappointment

Righteous Anger

Righteous Prayer

Personal Application and Interaction

1. It was suggested that the barren fig tree (11:12-14; 20-21) was “an acted out parable.” It may have reflected God’s disappointment with Israel as described in Jer. 8:13, ***“I will take away their harvest, declares the LORD. There will be no grapes on the vine. There will be no figs on the tree, and their leaves will wither. What I have given them will be taken from them.”*** What should the Church, the body of Christ, take away from this? How does it apply to you?
2. The fig tree sets the stage for what we witness in the cleansing of the Temple where Jesus showed His righteous anger in the face of all the chaos and corruption surrounding it. Spend some time reading and reflecting on Jer. 7:1-11, concluding with the warning, ***“But I have been watching, declares the LORD.”*** Those words remind us of what is involved in the fear of the Lord. What is it about your/our worship that pleases the LORD?
3. God answers prayer that comes from a life that has ***“clean hands and a pure heart.”*** That life is also free from the distractions of doubt and disobedience. How are you internalizing this as it applies to your own prayer life? How are you managing your mountains of concerns in prayer?



The Pursuit of Righteousness

Mark 11:12-28

Pastor John
July 30, 2017

