Mark Lesson 38 (2023)

**JESUS CONDEMNS THE UNBELIEVING ISRAEL**

(Mark 11:12-26)

**Open it:**

1. Over what are you most likely to lose your temper?

**Explore it:**

1. Read verses 12-14. Where did the events of this story take place? Why did the fig tree have no fruit? What did Jesus do to the fig tree? Why? The fig tree had leaves but no fruit; what is one area of your life that looks good but isn’t producing what God wants?
2. Read verses 15-17. What happened when Jesus entered the temple area in Jerusalem? Why was Jesus so upset about the “marketplace” atmosphere in the temple? What do the cursing of the fig tree and the cleansing of the temple tell us about Jesus’ attitude toward the people of Israel?
3. Read verses 18-19. How did the crowds and the religious leaders react to Jesus’ actions in the temple? What practices in the church today do you think hinder non-Christians from coming to Christ?
4. Read verses 20-21. What happened when the disciples saw the fig tree withered along the road? What might have gone through his mind when he saw the withered fig tree Jesus had cursed?
5. Read verses 22-26. Why do you think Jesus commanded his disciples to have faith in God? On what do answers to prayer depend? What promise did Jesus offer about receiving answers to prayers? How can holding a grudge affect the way God answers prayer?

**Apply it:**

1. What can you do today to let go of a grudge or feeling of offense?