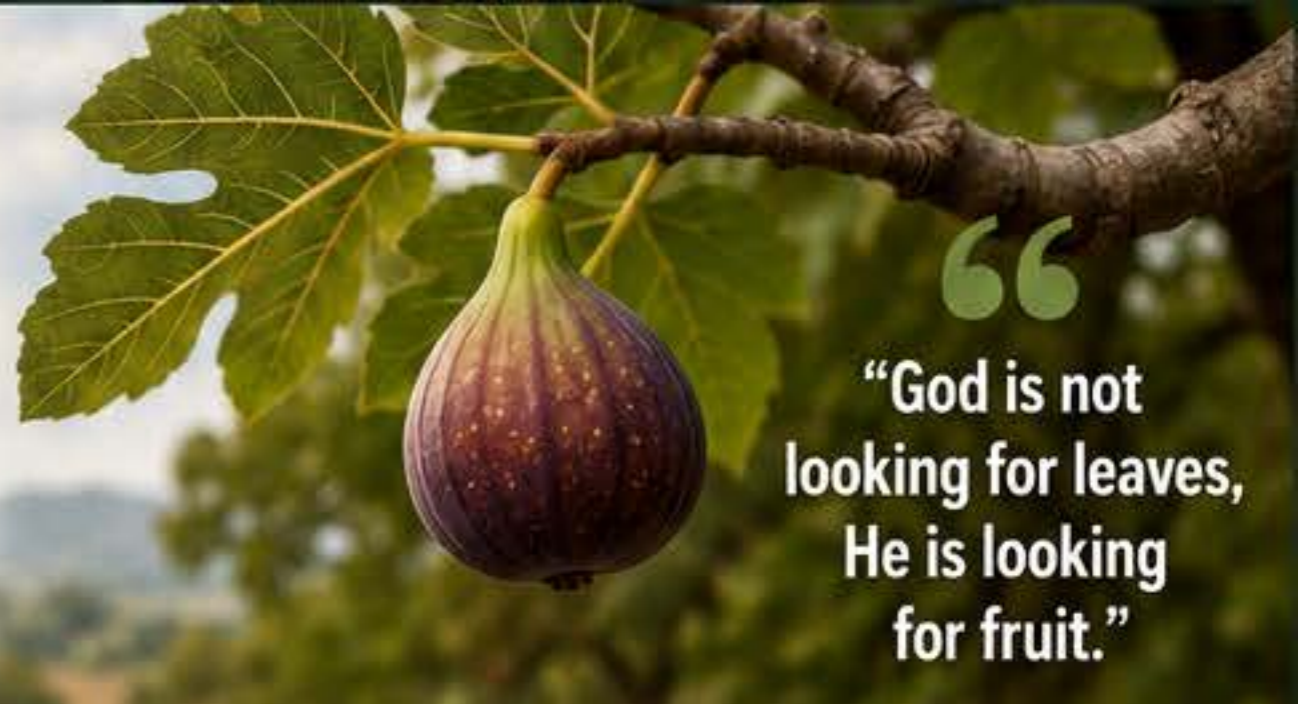


HE'S LOOKING for FRUIT

MARK 11:12-14



“God is not looking for leaves, He is looking for fruit.”



Jesus approached a fig tree looking for fruit, but found only leaves. The leaves gave the appearance of life, but there was no evidence of fruit. Likewise, God is looking for evidence of a transformed life—not merely an outward profession of faith.



OUR LORD IS LOOKING AT YOU AND ME, AND HE WANTS TO SEE EVIDENCE—NOT JUST LEAVES, BUT FRUIT!

THE FOUR SOILS – FOUR RESPONSES TO GOD'S WORD



1 THE WAYSIDE HEART Heard It and Forgot It

- Receives the Word but does not retain it.
- People hear it and then just forget it.
- No fruit produced.



2 THE STONY GROUND HEART Heard It and Faked It

- Appears interested in Christ.
- No deep root or genuine transformation.
- Christianity becomes an outward appearance.



3 THE THORNY GROUND HEART Tried to Fit Jesus In

- Allows the cares of life to crowd out Christ.
- Busy, burdened, and spiritually barren.
- Produces no lasting fruit.



4 THE GOOD GROUND HEART Heard It, Believed It, and Obeyed It

- Receives the Word with sincerity.
- Allows God to transform the heart.
- Produces spiritual fruit.

ONLY THE FOURTH GROUP IS SAVED.

The other three bring forth no fruit. Because without fruit, you're not saved. Salvation will cause you to produce fruit.



WARNING SIGNS – EXAMINE YOUR HEART

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Am I merely fitting Jesus into my schedule? | <input type="checkbox"/> Has the Gospel genuinely changed my heart? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Am I too busy to cultivate my relationship with God? | <input type="checkbox"/> Am I growing in holiness and obedience? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Is my life producing | |

You cannot fake spiritual fruit. You cannot fit Christ into an already crowded life. A genuine encounter with Jesus produces a transformed heart and a holy life. The evidence of salvation is fruit.

SIGNS OF SPIRITUAL FRUIT (ROMANS 6:15-22)



FRUIT OF OBEDIENCE

- Salvation changes the heart.
- Genuine faith results in obedience to God's Word.

"You obeyed from the heart..." (v.17)



FRUIT OF HOLINESS

- A changed lifestyle.
- A desire to please God.
- Separation from sinful practices.



FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

- | | |
|------------|----------------|
| • Love | • Kindness |
| • Joy | • Goodness |
| • Peace | • Faithfulness |
| • Patience | • Gentleness |
| | • Self-control |

But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. (Romans 6:22)

KEEP IN MIND



It's possible to fake Christianity, but Jesus says, "I never knew you." (Matthew 7:23)



The Lord is not looking for the best actors—He is looking for people who are genuinely born again.



We are here to preach the gospel so that the hearts and lives can be changed and people can know Christ. God's people can and must bear much fruit.

KEY VERSE

"Let no one eat fruit from you ever again."
Mark 11:14



REVELATION 11: THE TWO WITNESSES – A SNAPSHOT

GOD SENDS TWO WITNESSES (11:1-6)



Two mighty olive trees who will prophesy for 1,260 days (3½ years) with supernatural power.

THEY ARE KILLED (11:7-9)



The beast from the bottomless pit overcomes and kills them. Their bodies lie in the street of Jerusalem for 3½ days.

THE WORLD REJOICES (11:10)



Those who dwell on the earth rejoice, for these two prophets tormented them with the truth.

THEY ARE RAISED & TAKEN TO HEAVEN (11:11-12)



The breath of life from God enters them. A voice from heaven says, "Come up here." And they ascend to heaven.

✝ CLOSING CHALLENGE

If Jesus examined your life today, would He find leaves or fruit?



GOD IS NOT LOOKING FOR LEAVES—OUTWARD APPEARANCE, RELIGIOUS ACTIVITY, OR EMPTY PROFESSION. HE IS LOOKING FOR FRUIT—PROOF, EVIDENCE THAT SOMETHING HAS HAPPENED WAY DOWN DEEP ON THE INSIDE.