

A Walk to the Cross  
*The Temple and Fig Tree*  
Mark 11:12-18

**Question: Is the King fooled by fruitless religion?**

**I. Appearances vs. Reality - A Fig Tree (12-14)**

~ A leafy tree, but where is the fruit?

**II. Appearances vs. Reality - The Temple (15-17)**

~ A temple bustling with activity - but the fruit?

A. The Temple - What it was meant to be (17a)

~ A house of prayer for all nations (Is. 56:6-7)

B. The Temple - What it was in reality (17b)

~ A den of robbers (Jer. 7:4-11)

**III. Response to the Truth Being Told (18)**

~ let's kill him!

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**Point to Ponder:** As we come here with our "Sunday best" we see one another's appearances – the question is what is the reality that the King sees? Ponder how we can strive to make this fellowship something significantly more than simply a convenient place to keep up appearances. How can we nurture the fruit of a life changed by the great King? I would love to hear your answers as to how we might better move in that direction.

**A Note to Parents:** Please know that the children and youth who leave the service during the sermon are looking at the same passage we will consider each week. We hope that you will initiate a conversation with them about this portion of God's Word.

**Next Week:** Next week we will continue our Lenten sermon series entitled *A Walk to the Cross* by looking at **Mark 12:1-12** *The Story*

