

SO SEND I YOU, INC. 2024 LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

Saint John Baptist Church is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: 2024 LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

Time: March 20, 2024 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every day, until Mar 31, 2024

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82089300351?pwd=qdHdd5LGaTRWPhJCRgOxsK6bL2Fnji.1>

Meeting ID: 820 8930 0351

Passcode: 628471

Dial by your location

- **+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)**
- **+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)**

**DAY 31
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2024**

NOTHING BUT LEAVES

Rev. Dr. Craig Scott Brown, Sr.

Mark 11:11-14 The next day as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry. 13 Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to find out if it had any fruit. When he reached it, he found nothing but leaves, because it was not the season for figs. 14 Then he said to the tree, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard him say it.

Jesus has just made His way into Jerusalem, and the Palm Sunday worshippers have heaped praise upon Him. The praise that all the world would have given if only they had known who He was and what He came to do. While the praise seems genuine and sincere to the average observer, the events that will follow in the next few days reveal the true nature of the Palm Sunday praise.

After the praise session ends, Jesus goes into the temple and looks around. We are told it was late, so Jesus left and went to Bethany with the twelve. I believe Jesus, after hearing the praise of those outside of the place of worship, went to the house of worship seeking praise. He left disappointed because those in the house of worship had no clue as to who He was.

In the text, we discover that, after a night in Bethany, He leaves there hungry. This is interesting because we know Mary and Martha live in Bethany, and that Jesus spends time with them most times He goes there. We also know that Martha normally meets His culinary needs, so why does Jesus leave Bethany hungry? Perhaps He was so upset after leaving the temple that He couldn't eat. Or, just maybe, Jesus needed to demonstrate to His disciples—and to us today—an object lesson through His encounter with a fig tree.

As they make their way back to Jerusalem hungry, Jesus sees a fig tree in the distance. The tree attracts Jesus because it has leaves on it indicating that it had something to give. If the fig tree has leaves then it should also have figs, since they normally grow at the same time. When Jesus gets to the tree, He finds nothing but leaves on the tree—a disappointment to him for the fig tree wasn't producing fruit, it was empty. It appeared fruitful, but it was not. I believe, in this season, the message for us is that Jesus is hungry, and those who profess to know Him will be inspected. So, the question to ponder for today: Do I have fruit to offer or nothing but leaves?

Prayer:

LORD God, help us to understand that you are so worthy of the best praise we have. Help us to understand who you are and that today you are hungry for those who will worship you in spirit and truth. Help us not to be guilty of having nothing but leaves. In Jesus' Name. Amen.