

STUDIES FROM THE DESIRE OF AGES

Chapter *LXIV* (64) “*A Doomed People*”

- A. Read [Matthew 7:21-27](#). The fig tree that Jesus cursed stood out from all the other fig trees in the orchard because it appeared to have fruit. In what ways did the Jewish nation at that time also appear to stand out above the other nations of the earth? In what way is the cursing of the fig tree a warning “to all churches and to all Christians”?
- B. To the disciples, the cursing of the fig tree seemed strange in contrast to Jesus’ saving ministry. In what ways was Christ’s mercy visible, even in the cursing of the fig tree?
- C. After the triumphal entry into Jerusalem, Jesus spent the night in prayer. Why is prayer particularly important after what seems like great spiritual success?
- D. Often individuals reject God’s truth because it doesn’t fit with their own “practices and their natural inclination.” What is supreme in your life right now—God’s truth, or what you think is right for yourself?

#####

- 1. How could the Disciples benefit by Jesus’ cursing of the tree?
- 2. How were the Roman officials affected by the voice of Jesus?
- 3. How was the appearance of the tree “deceptive?”
- 4. How did this object lesson apply to the Jews? Does it apply to us? If yes, how?
- 5. What responsibility comes with a spiritual gift? Would it be better to have no gifts?
- 6. In the light of this chapter, what does the Law of God cause us to do? Or, Who do we then think about?

7. “He declares that the open sinner is less guilty than is he who professes to serve God, but who bears no fruit to His glory.” (584 middle or 337 bottom left) How can this be?
8. What is a danger in rejecting the warnings of God’s Spirit?
9. If someone wanted to find a “reason” for rejecting Christ, could they find it or are all truths so obvious as to be beyond question?
10. Personal views: List a favorite section or some new thought from this reading.