

Have Faith in God

Mark 11:19-24

Charlie Brackett

After cleansing the temple, Jesus and the apostles left the city and made their way back toward Bethany for the evening. The next morning they came back that way into Jerusalem, and they saw by the road the fig tree which Jesus had cursed the day before. Peter was the first to speak. "Rabbi, look! The fig tree which You cursed has withered away."

Can you remember as Peter did? The previous morning, as they went into the city, Jesus was hungry, and He saw a fig tree with leaves giving the appearance it had figs. When they approached, however, there was no fruit. Jesus said to the tree, "Let no one eat fruit from you ever again." The disciples heard the curse at the time, but the Lord taught no lesson from the incident until this second encounter with the tree.

On this next morning, when their attention was drawn to the now withered tree, Jesus said, "Have faith in God..." Jesus came to earth to teach no greater lesson. Have faith in God. He had taught it to His apostles continuously, one way or another, from the day of their selection. When He met Peter, the fisherman, and his brother Andrew, who had fished all night without a catch, but at His command pulled the nets up full, His lesson was "have faith in God." The lesson of feeding the 5,000 was "have faith in God." When Peter walked on the water and began to sink, Jesus said, "Have faith in God." Every miracle called for the disciples to have faith in God. Every word the Savior uttered ultimately said, "Have faith in God." The Bible I hold in my hand, from cover to cover says, "Have faith in God."

Does it strike you odd that the greatest Teacher and Motivator who ever lived spent His life on earth saying, "Have faith in God," yet the majority of mankind has ignored His message? Can you feel the passion of the words He was willing to cruelly die on the cross to proclaim. "Have faith in God."

Dear Reader, do you have faith in God? Romans 10:17 says that faith comes by hearing the word of God. And the 4th chapter of Romans pictures saving faith as a trust in God that causes us to actively obey His words. Tell me, do you have faith in God? There is no more important lesson you can learn in this life.