**Text**: Mark 11:12-21

**Topic**: Holiness/True Religion

**Date**: 09/13/2020

Pastor Derek Greenhalgh

**Nothing But Leaves**

“A warning to those who practice an empty and dead religion”

**Text**: **Mark 11:12-25**, “**12**On the following day, when they came from Bethany, he was hungry. **13**And seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to see if he could find anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. **14**And he said to it, “May no one ever eat fruit from you again.” And his disciples heard it.”**15**And they came to Jerusalem. And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold and those who bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. **16**And he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple. **17**And he was teaching them and saying to them, “Is it not written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations’? But you have made it a den of robbers.” **18**And the chief priests and the scribes heard it and were seeking a way to destroy him, for they feared him, because all the crowd was astonished at his teaching. **19**And when evening came they went out of the city.” **20**As they passed by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered away to its roots. **21**And Peter remembered and said to him, “Rabbi, look! The fig tree that you cursed has withered.” **English Standard Version**

*Because of Christ’s coming judgment*…

**Point #1**: **Inspect** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_! **vv.12-14**

*Because of Christ’s coming judgment*…

**Point #2**: **Avoid** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_! **vv.15-19**

*Because of Christ’s coming judgment*…

**Point #3**: **Remember** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_! **vv.20-21**

**Corollary Verses**: Micah 7:1-2; Luke 13:6-9; James 1:27; Exodus 30:13-16; Isaiah 56:7; Jeremiah 7:11; and Romans 2:22-24.

**Application Questions**

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today’s sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to the questions listed below will assist you in gaining a better understanding of the point of this passage. Please be prepared to discuss your answers with your Home Fellowship Groups.

1.) Read **Romans 7:4**; **Ephesians 2:10; and Colossians 1:9-10** then answer the following questions. As a born again regenerate person, what were you created to do? What does it mean to “live a life worthy?” Why is it important to remember that good works can only come after salvation and not before?

2.) Read **Luke 6:43-45, 13:6-9**; and **Galatians 5:22-23, 6:8-9** then answer the following questions. According to Luke, is it possible for a believer to bear bad fruit? How can you identify the quality of fruit a person produces? According to Paul what are you not to become weary doing? Give some examples.

3.) Read **Matthew 23:27-28**; **Luke 12:1-3** and **Romans 2:22-24** then answer the following questions. What group of people in the first century could be used as the poster child of hypocrisy? What does these verses tell s about their spiritual condition? How is the name of God blasphemed by those to commit hypocrisy? What future warning is given to those who commit hypocrisy?

4.) Read **Matthew 6:16-18**; **Luke 20:46-47**; and **James 1:22-23** then answer the following questions. What kind of hypocritical actions are listed in these verses that we should avoid in our worship? Does God take these kinds of behaviors lightly? Support your answer from the text?

5.) Read **Romans 2:16**, **2 Corinthians 5:10**; and **Revelation 19:11-16** then answer the following questions. Who has been designated to be the judge of the world? Although believers won’t be judged for salvation, how will they be judged? How does John describe Jesus when he returns to render judgment at his second coming?