

## Melbourne Community Church (MCC)

Sunday Service — December 4, 2022

12/24: Christmas Eve, Saturday Evening

*Christmas Eve Service, Saturday evening at 6:00 PM.*

12/25: Christmas Morning

*No Sunday Service Christmas day.*



### Sermon Notes

**Last week:** “*Venit, Vidit, Verat*”, [Matthew 21:1-17](#), by Brandon Harris, Teaching Pastor.

Old Testament Reading: [Isaiah 53:1-6](#); New Testament Reading: [Matthew 20:17-34](#)

[He came, He saw, He cleaned (God’s) house.]

- Jesus enters Jerusalem, [vv. 1-11](#)
- Jesus enters the temple, [v. 12](#)
- Jesus “Cleans House”, [vv. 12-16](#)
- Jesus clashes with leaders, [vv. 14-16](#)
- Jesus leaves, [v. 17](#)

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**This week:** “*The Curious Case of CURSING THE FIG TREE*”, [Matthew 21:18-22](#), by Brandon Harris, Teaching Pastor.

Old Testament Reading: [Micah 7:1-7](#);

New Testament Reading: [John 15:1-8](#)

What was the:

- Problem?
- Point?
- Principle?

Why do you think the narration indicates that it was probably ‘breakfast time’ and Jesus was hungry? ([Philippians 2:6-8](#))

Jesus sees a fig tree along the road. What was the maturity of the tree? Jesus had just spent the night in Bethany. That morning on the way to Jerusalem, Jesus was passed by Bethphage. What is the meaning of the name Bethphage? ([Strong’s G967](#))

(Over)

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The time of year was April. What should one expect from a fig tree at this time:

- With respect to the leaves?
- With respect to fruit?

What major event had just occurred the day before at the temple in Jerusalem?

This is the only mention when Jesus uses his power in a negative way. Why might Jesus curse a (expectedly) fruitless fig tree?

What does Jesus say to the leaders at the temple? How does this compare with the fig tree? ([Micah 7:1-2, 4](#))

Why are the disciples shocked by how quickly the fig tree withered?

How does Jesus turn this into an especially important teaching moment?

How might the disciples also see God do things that would ‘shock and awe’? ([Matthew 21:21-22](#); [1 Corinthians 13:2](#))

The cleansing of the (outer court of the) temple and the cursing of the fig tree demonstrates that God requires what from his creation? ([Genesis 1:27-28](#); [Micah 6:8](#); [Romans 7:4](#); [Colossians 1:6, 10](#); [Galatians 5:22-23](#))

### Additional Notes:

Internet Resources: [The Bible Project: Matthew 14-28](#);  
[Matthew Overview Poster](#)

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