

**A HOUSE OF PRAYER  
FOR ALL NATIONS**

The next day as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry. 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.

Then he said to the tree, “May no one ever eat fruit from you again.” And his disciples heard him say it.

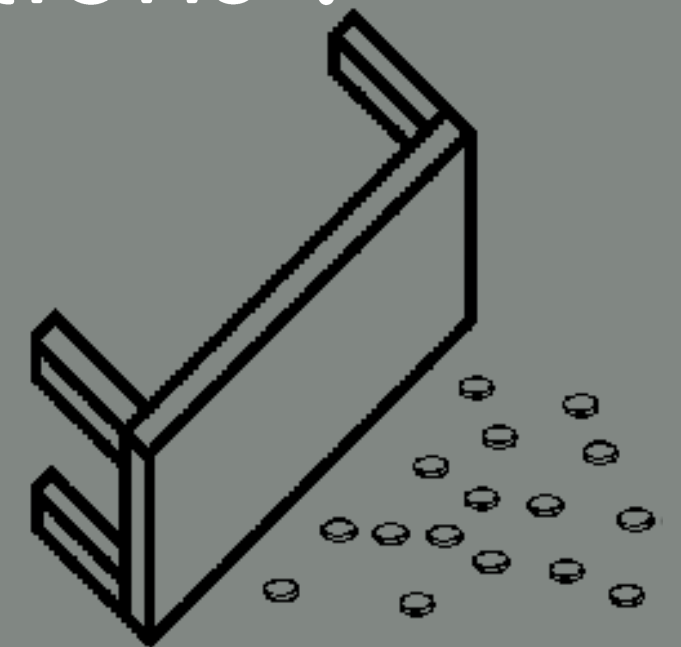


Mark 11:12-14

On reaching Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple courts and began driving out those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves, and would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts.

And as he taught them, he said, “Is it not written: ‘My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations’? But you have made it ‘a den of robbers.’”

Mark 11:15–17

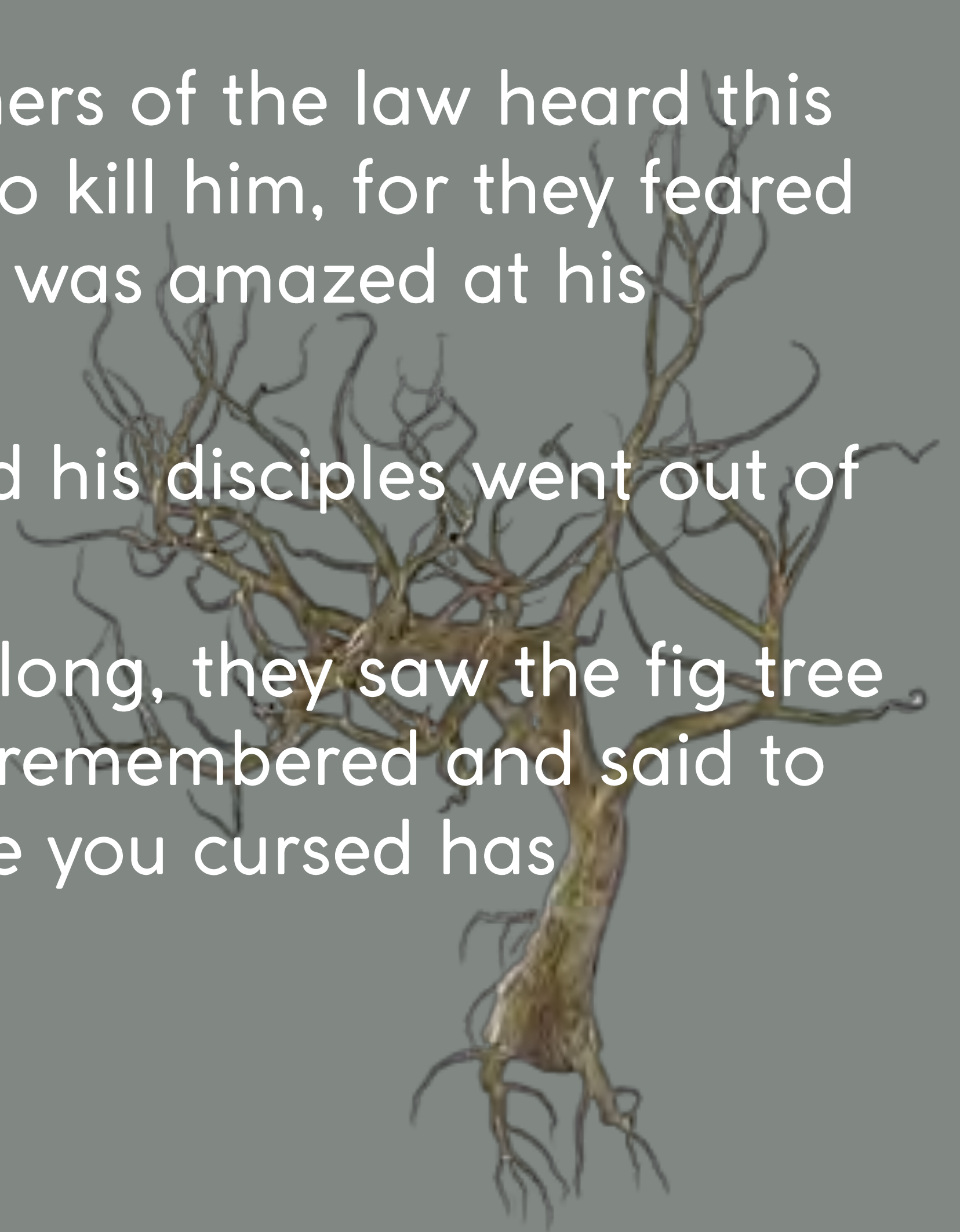


The chief priests and the teachers of the law heard this and began looking for a way to kill him, for they feared him, because the whole crowd was amazed at his teaching.

When evening came, Jesus and his disciples went out of the city.

In the morning, as they went along, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots. Peter remembered and said to Jesus, “Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered!”

Mark 11:18–21



“Have faith in God,” Jesus answered.

“Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them.

Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.”

Mark 11:22-25



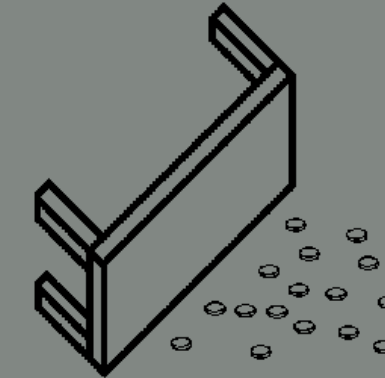
Mark 11:12-14

Fig tree cursed



Mark 11:15-18

Temple courts cleared



Mark 11:17

**“House of prayer for all nations”**



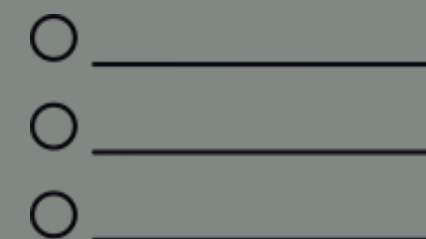
Mark 11:19-21

Fig tree withered



Mark 11:22-25

3 teachings of Jesus



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Mark 11:12-14

# Lessons about our life in God, and the Church

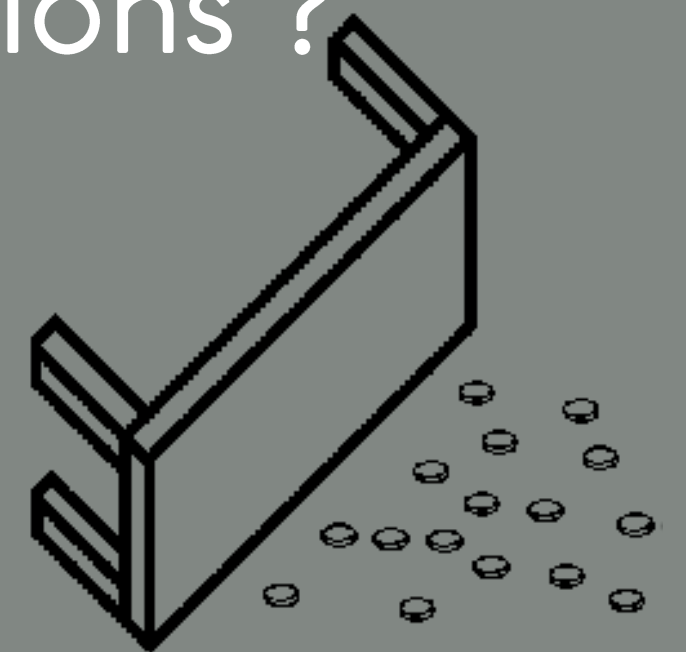
1. Don't have leaves without fruit



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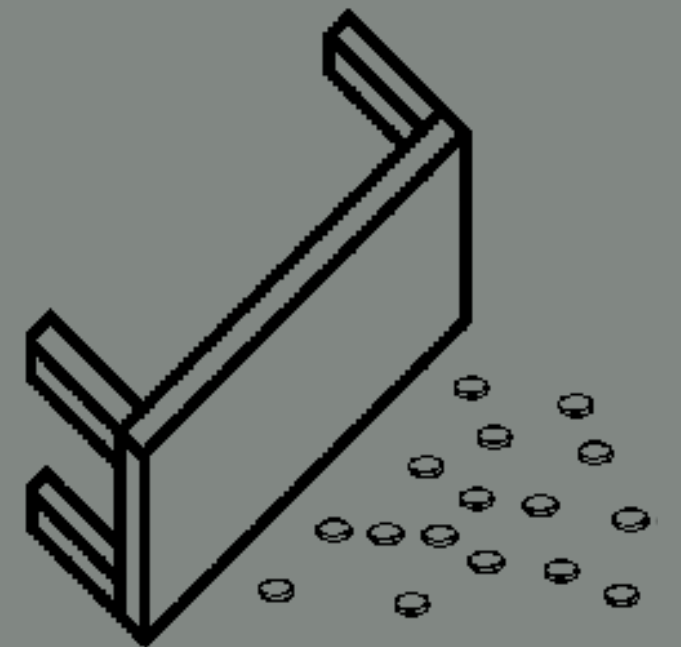
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Mark 11:15–17



Let no foreigner who is bound to the LORD say,  
“The LORD will surely exclude me from his people.”

And let no eunuch complain,

“I am only a dry tree.”

For this is what the LORD says:

“To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths,

who choose what pleases me

and hold fast to my covenant —

to them I will give within my temple and its walls

a memorial and a name

better than sons and daughters;

I will give them an everlasting name

that will endure forever.

Is 56:3-5

And foreigners who bind themselves to the LORD to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it and who hold fast to my covenant— these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer.

Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called **a house of prayer for all nations.**

“The Sovereign LORD declares— he who gathers the exiles of Israel: “I will gather still others to them besides those already gathered.”

Is 56:6–8

## Eunuch

Deut 23:1

No one who has been emasculated by crushing or cutting may enter the assembly of the LORD.

## Foreigner

Deut 23:3

No Ammonite or Moabite or any of their descendants may enter the assembly of the LORD, not even in the tenth generation.

On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare  
a feast of rich food for all peoples,  
a banquet of aged wine—  
the best of meats and the finest of wines.  
On this mountain he will destroy  
the shroud that enfolds all peoples,  
the sheet that covers all nations;  
he will swallow up death forever.  
The Sovereign LORD will wipe away  
the tears from all faces;  
he will remove his people's  
disgrace from all the earth.  
The LORD has spoken.

Is 25:6-8



“With respect to the eunuch, the purpose of the prohibition is clearly to teach the goodness of nature as we find it in creation. Sexuality is a good part of God’s creation, and while we are not to worship it, neither are we to condone its destruction”

“We must not forget that actions have consequences, especially when those actions are in opposition to God’s plan to bring his salvation into the world. But again, once the point has been made, a greater point can take precedence: God intends to “make a feast for all peoples” in which “the covering that is cast over the peoples” will be destroyed (25:6–7). And “all peoples” includes even Ammonites and Moabites; they will not be cut off by God.”

# Lessons about our life in God, and the Church

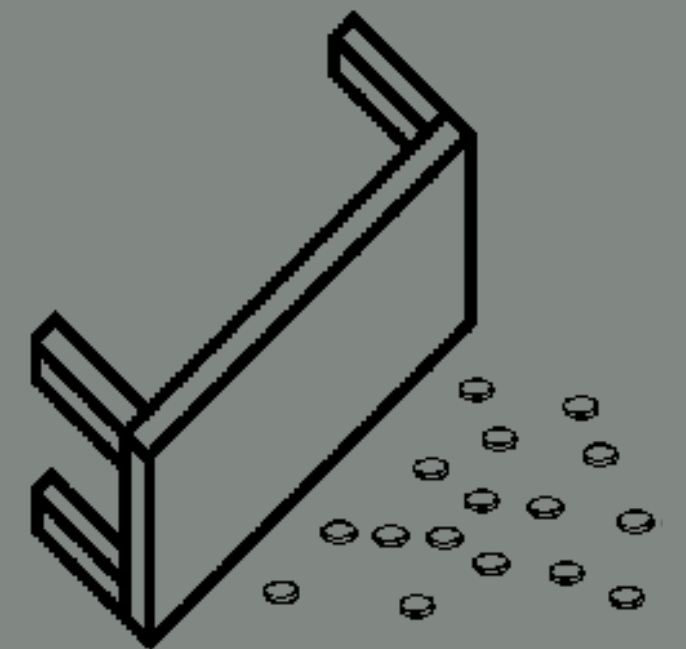
1. Don't have leaves without fruit
2. Don't only have activities of worship without making room for those far from God



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Mark 11:15-17



“Don’t be fooled into thinking that you will never suffer because the Temple is here. It’s a lie! Do you really think you can steal, murder, commit adultery, lie, and burn incense to Baal and all those other new gods of yours, and then come here and stand before me in my Temple and chant, “We are safe!”—only to go right back to all those evils again? Don’t you yourselves admit that this Temple, which bears my name, has become a den of thieves? Surely I see all the evil going on there. I, the LORD, have spoken!

Jer 7:8-11



“They flee to the temple for protection, thinking to be safe there, believing that participation in the formal rituals of the cult would somehow deliver them from the Judge. But the temple was no sheltering place for covenant-breakers. There was no security there from the searching eyes of Yahweh.”

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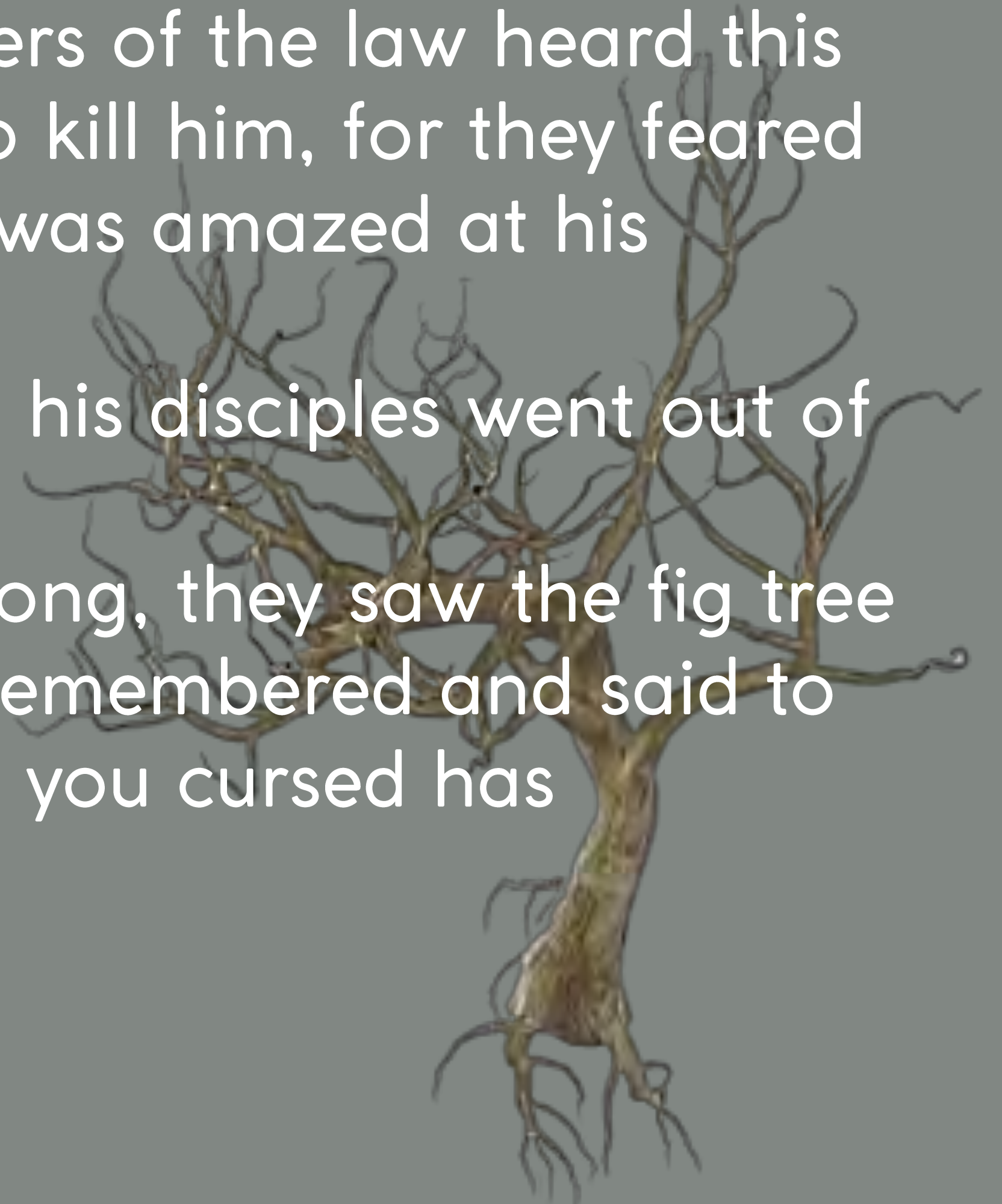
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3. Don't let our activities of worship make us feel we are safe if our hearts are far from God

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2. Don't only have activities of worship without making room for those far from God
3. Don't let our activities of worship make us feel we are safe if our hearts are far from God
4. Don't let fruitlessness comes from the roots

“Have faith in God,” Jesus answered.

Mark 11:22-25



# 3 lessons from Jesus when encountering the fruitlessness of ourselves or religion or church

## 1. Have Faith in God



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“Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them.

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**2. Believe God can overcome any system and any human weakness or failure, even our own**

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2. Don't only have activities of worship without making room for those far from God
3. Don't let our activities of worship make us feel we are safe if our hearts are far from God
4. Don't let fruitlessness come from the roots
5. Don't lose faith in God, don't be discouraged and don't forget to forgive, even as we are forgiven.

# Will Kum Yan be God's House of Prayer for all Nations?

1. Are our lives and prayers busy or fruitful?
2. Are we passionate for people to know God? Are Missions on our heart?
3. Are we dedicated to God for His purposes? Or are we hiding here for His salvation but not His use?
4. Is the source of our lives God? Is our prayer life dry?
5. Is our Faith and Allegiance to God alone? Do we believe He can move all obstacles for growth in our lives and in our church? Do we forgive as He forgives?

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

Rev 21:3-4



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6. Are we the dwelling place of God's presence and glory?





**A HOUSE OF PRAYER  
FOR ALL NATIONS**

God's House of Prayer for all Nations is a place of

1. Prayer
2. Worship
3. Discipleship
4. Family and fellowship
5. Outreach
6. Missions
7. Dwelling place of God's presence

Is this the House of God that we are being and building together?

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