The Lessons Of The Fig Tree

Matthew 21:18-22

Intro:

A. We learn many lessons from many things.
   1. Some are easy, some are difficult.
   2. Some are, "the school of hard knocks."
   3. Life is a series of lessons and learning.

B. Jesus the Master Teacher.
   1. He taught in the Temple at age 12.
   2. He taught in the synagogues.
   3. He taught in the meadows and fields.
   4. He taught as He traveled.
   5. Here, we learn the lesson of the fig tree.

I. The Lessons Of The Fig Tree.

A. That Jesus was human. V.18
   1. The Bible states that, he hungered.
   2. We saw this in His temptation.

B. That Jesus took what was set before Him.
   1. "...he saw a fig tree." V.19
   2. He did not reject its fruit.

C. That things aren’t always what they seem.
   1. "...he found nothing thereon."
   2. "...leaves only."
   3. The fig tree bloomed first, set its fruit and then put forth its leaves.
   4. Because it was already in full leaf, it was past putting on fruit. Mark 11:12-14

D. That God sometimes works quickly.
   1. "...and presently the fig tree withered." V.19
   2. presently = παραχρόμενο = "with the thing itself", "at the very moment", "directly"

E. That God’s people are slow to learn.
   1. The disciples saw it. V.20
   2. They marveled.
3. marveled = θαυμάζω = "to look on with amazement."

II. The Challenge Of Jesus To His Apostles.

A. The power of faith.
   1. faith = πίστις = "firm persuasion" v.21
   2. doubt not = διακρίνω = "to be in strife with one's self" "to separate one's self"
   3. Unwavering faith in God and His commands is necessary to doing such acts.

B. The great promise. v.22
   1. ask in prayer = προσεύχη = "speaking out in prayer", "prayer towards"
   2. believing = πιστεύω = "to be persuaded," "to rely upon", "to trust"
   3. receive = λαμβάνω = "to take", "to take hold of", "to take is given."