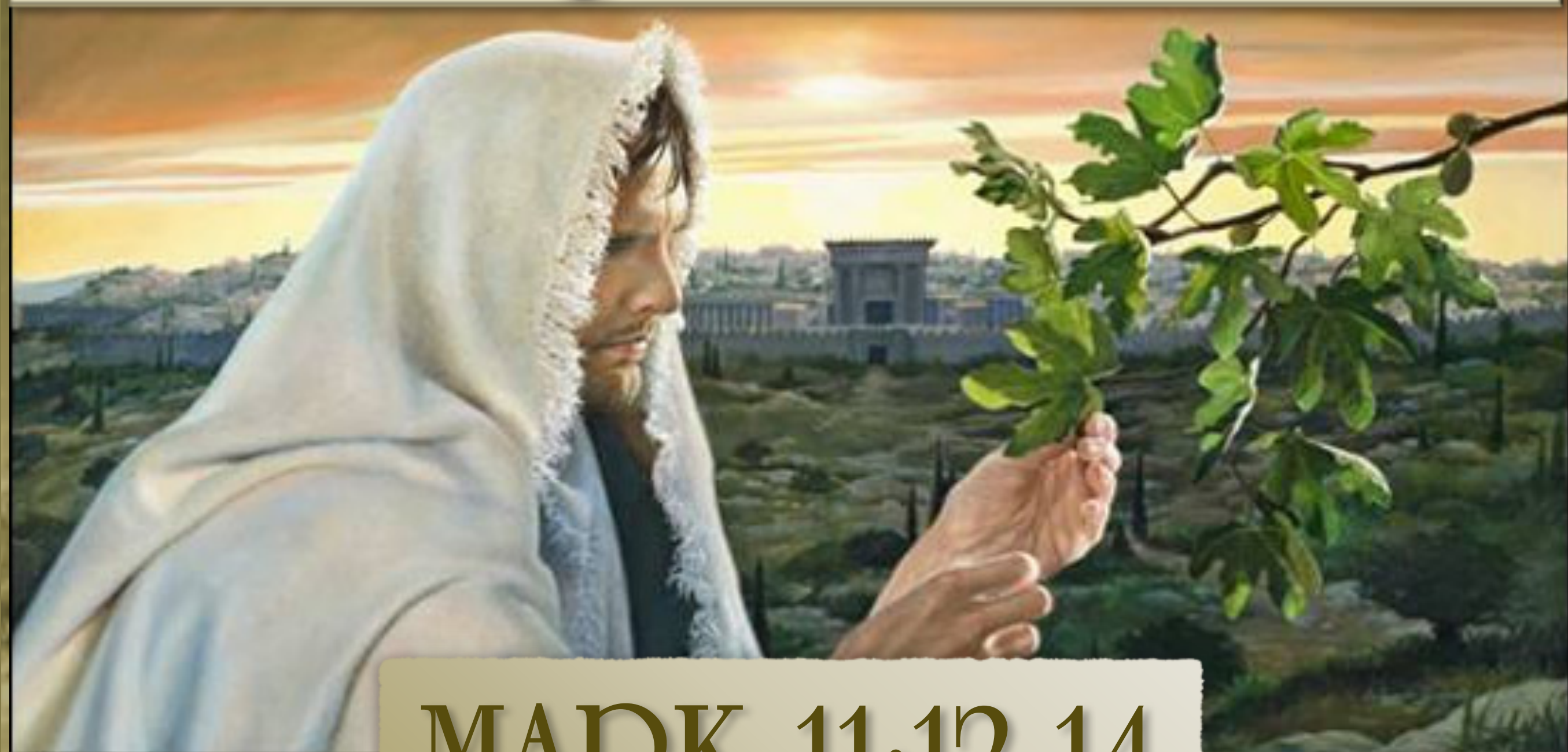



Nothing But Leaves



MARK 11:12-14

Nothing But Leaves

The Context - MARK 11:1-26



(House of figs); A village on the east slop of the Mt of Olives - 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles from Jerusalem

- ◆ Sent disciples into Jerusalem to find colt – 11:1-7
- ◆ Triumphal Entry Into Jerusalem – 11:8-10
- ◆ Viewed The Temple, Then Went To Bethany – 11:11
- ◆ The Tree With Nothing But Leaves – 11:12-14
- ◆ Jesus Cleanses The Temple – 11:15-18
- ◆ Jesus Emphasizes The Need For Practical Faith – 11:20-26
- ◆ Jesus' authority questioned - 11:27-33

Nothing But Leaves

The Context - MARK 11:1-26

The fig tree is an analogy, a metaphor, an illustration of the spiritual condition of Israel & the soon destruction of the Jewish leadership, Jerusalem & temple.





Mark 11:11-26 (NKJV)

¹¹ And Jesus went into Jerusalem and into the temple. So when He had looked around at all things, as the hour was already late, He went out to Bethany with the twelve. ¹² Now the next day, when they had come out from Bethany, He was hungry.



Mark 11:11-26 (NKJV)

¹³ And seeing from afar a fig tree having leaves, He went to see if perhaps He would find something on it. When He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. ¹⁴ In response Jesus said to it, "Let no one eat fruit from you ever again." And His disciples heard it.



Mark 11:11-26 (NKJV)

¹⁵ So they came to Jerusalem. Then Jesus went into the temple and began to drive out those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. ¹⁶ And He would not allow anyone to carry wares through the temple.



Mark 11:11-26 (NKJV)

¹⁷ Then He taught, saying to them, “Is it not written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations’? But you have made it a ‘den of thieves.’ ” ¹⁸ And the scribes and chief priests heard it and sought how they might destroy Him; for they feared Him, because all the people were astonished at His teaching.



Mark 11:11-26 (NKJV)

¹⁹ When evening had come, He went out of the city. ²⁰ Now in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. ²¹ And Peter, remembering, said to Him, “Rabbi, look! The fig tree which You cursed has withered away.”



Mark 11:11-26 (NKJV)

²² So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God. ²³ For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. ²⁴ Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.



Mark 11:11-26 (NKJV)

²⁵ “And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. ²⁶
But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.”

Nothing But Leaves

Three Ever Present Truths



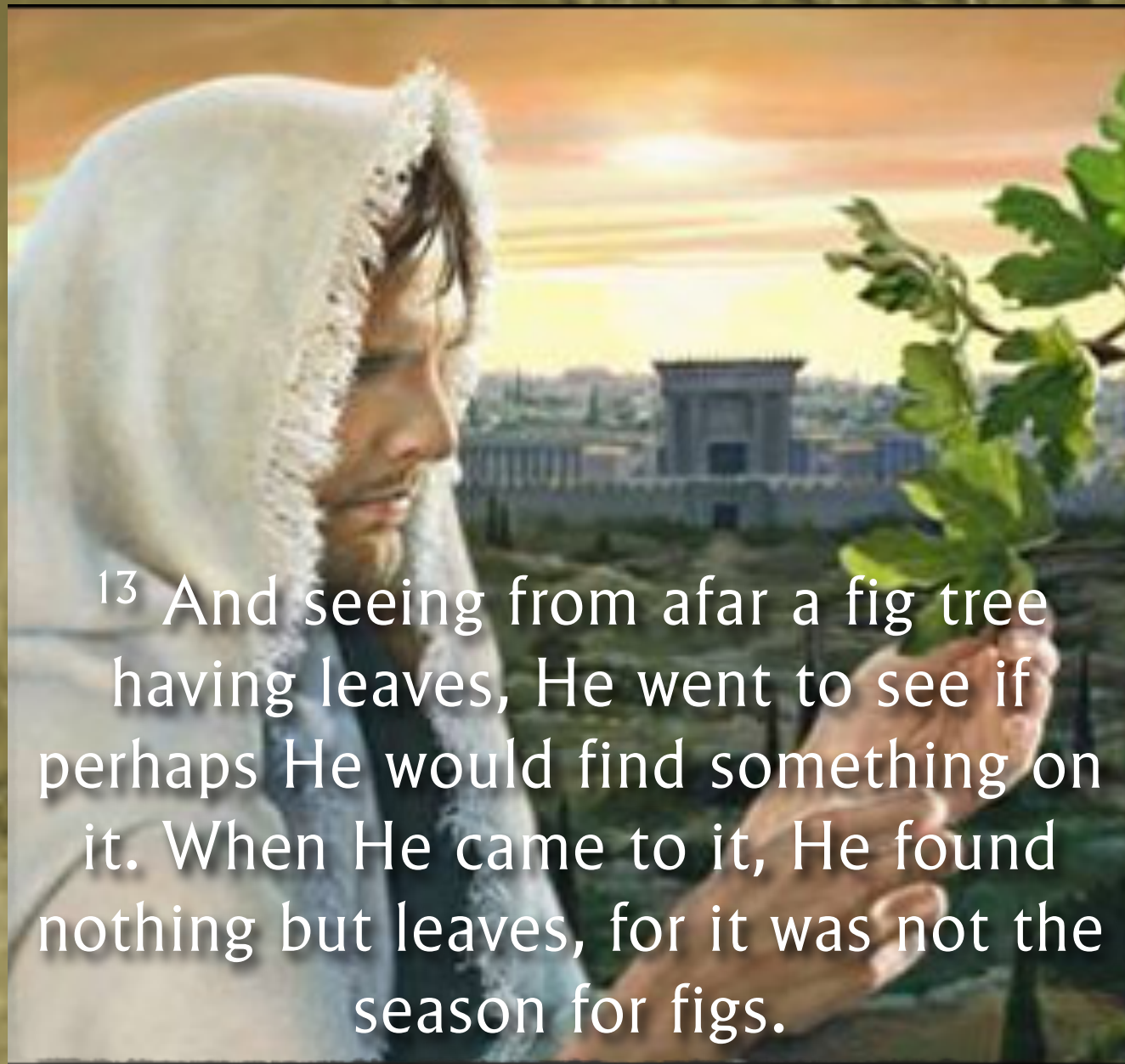
What Jesus Sought
& **SEEKS** -

What Jesus Found
& **FINDS**-

What Jesus did
& **WILL DO** -

Nothing But Leaves

What Jesus Sought & Seeks



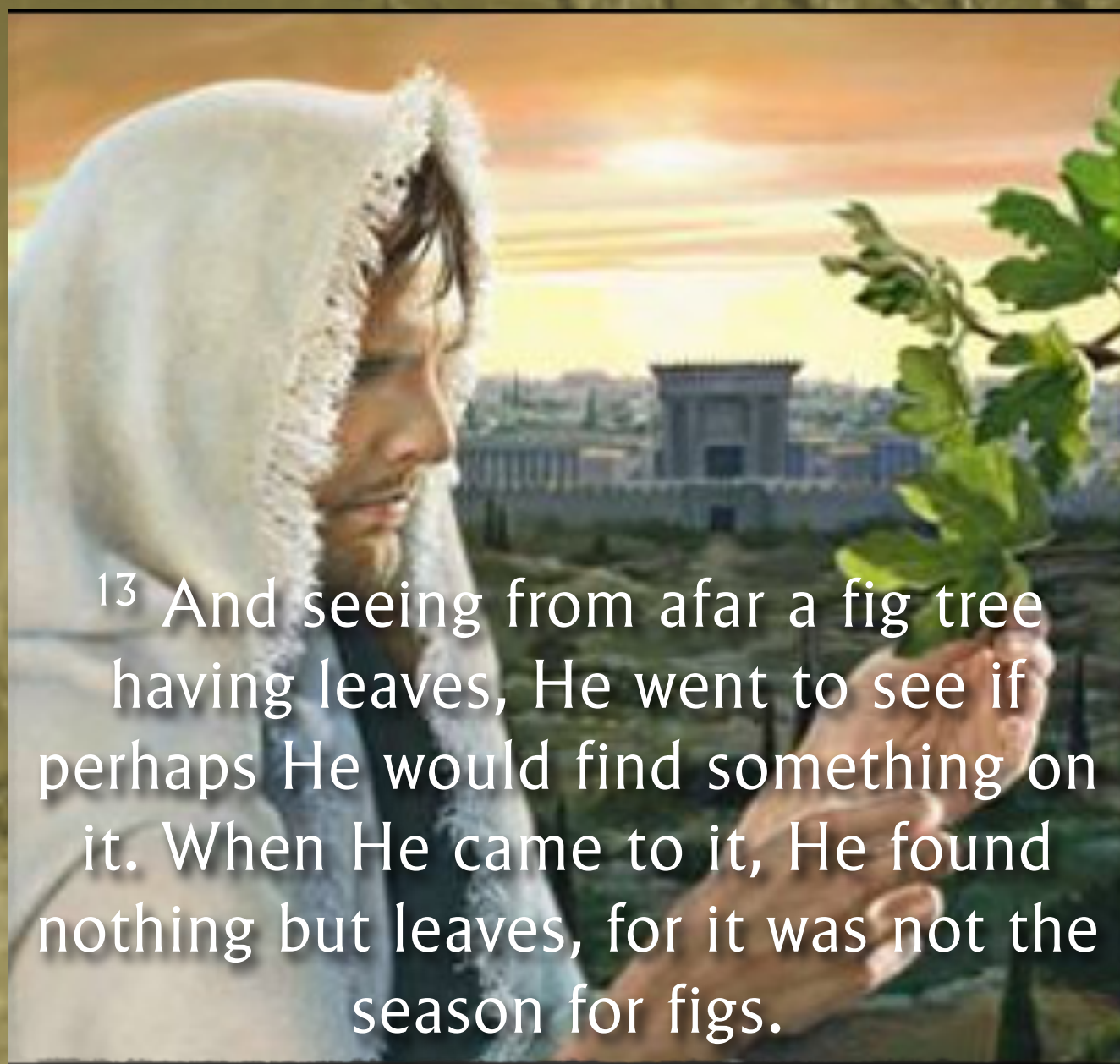
¹³ And seeing from afar a fig tree having leaves, He went to see if perhaps He would find something on it. When He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs.

**Jesus sought
fruit from the
fig tree –**

**(He had the right
to expect some for
it displayed leaves)**

Nothing But Leaves

What Jesus Sought & Seeks

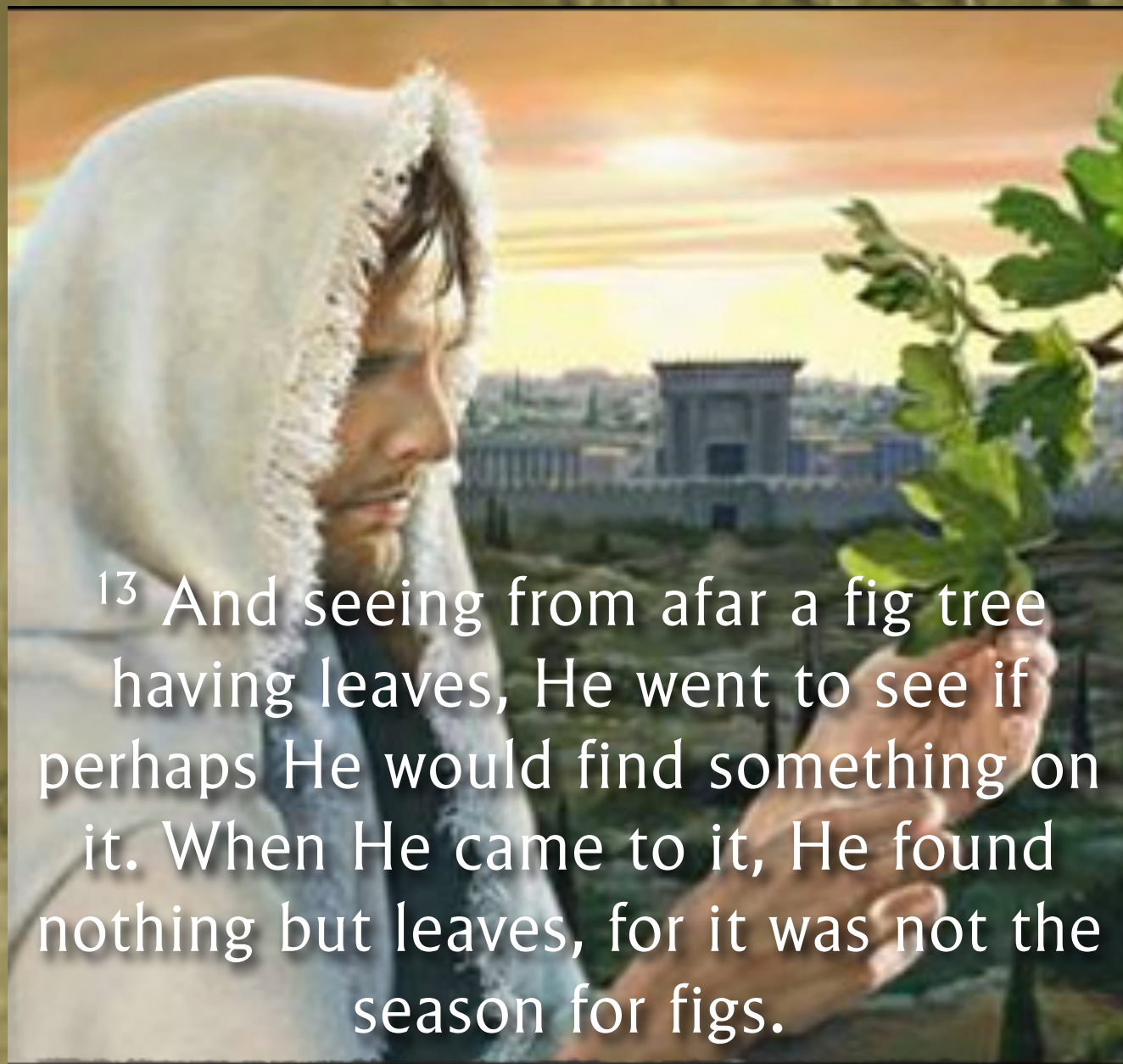


¹³ And seeing from afar a fig tree having leaves, He went to see if perhaps He would find something on it. When He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs.

- **Jesus was hungry** - as if he had had no food on the night before (12) . . .
- **Having leaves** - this precocious tree had put out leaves as a sign of fruit.
- **It was not the season of figs** - The early figs in Palestine are not gathered before May or June, the later crop in August.

Nothing But Leaves

What Jesus Sought & Seeks

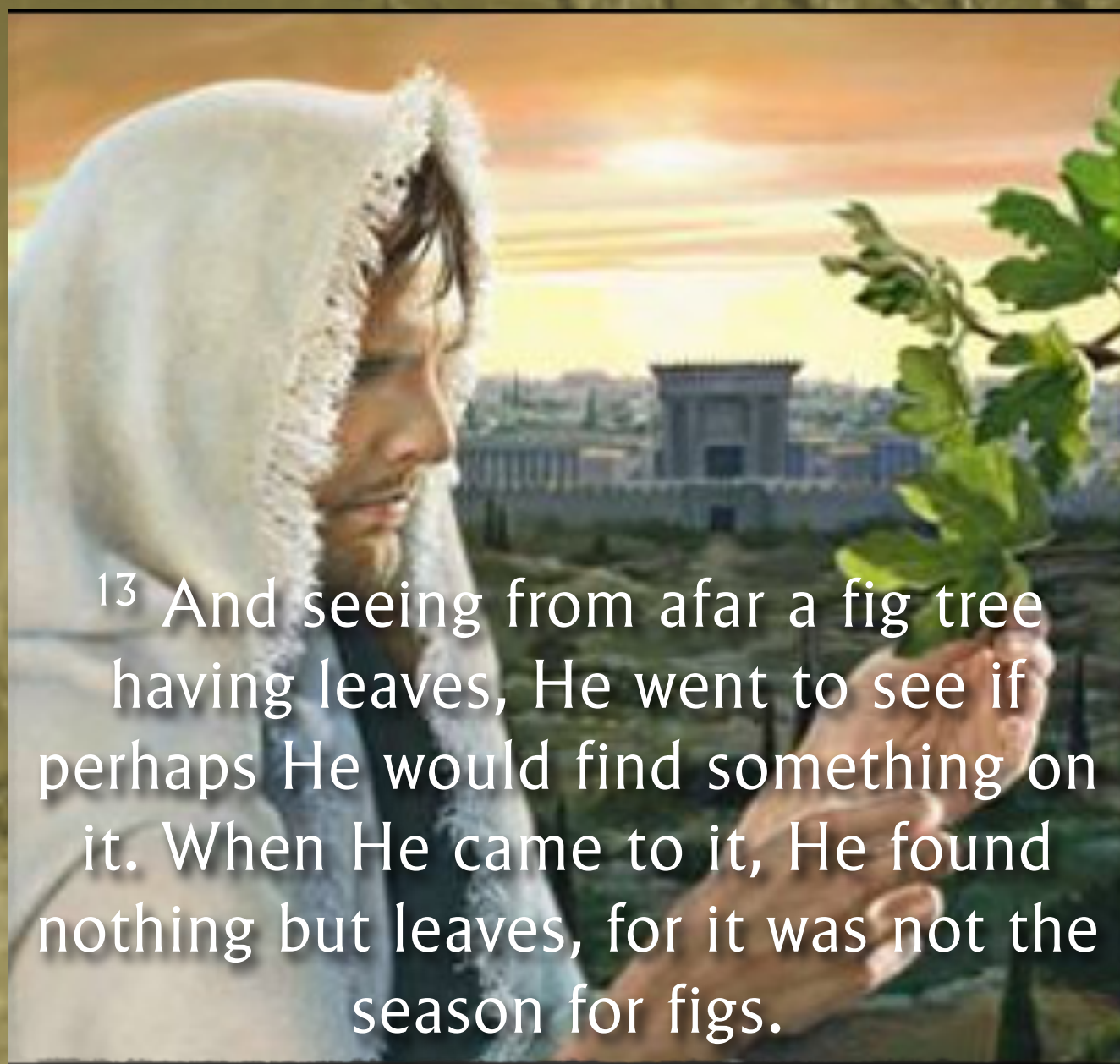


¹³ And seeing from afar a fig tree having leaves, He went to see if perhaps He would find something on it. When He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs.

- The fruit is formed in its immature state before the leaves are seen, (*March*). The leaves announced the advance of the tree to the state of having edible fruit, (*April*).
- The words, '*for it was not the season for figs*' could actually be another reason why Jesus should have expected fruit, - the fruit would not have yet been gathered. (*May, June*)

Nothing But Leaves

What Jesus Sought & Seeks

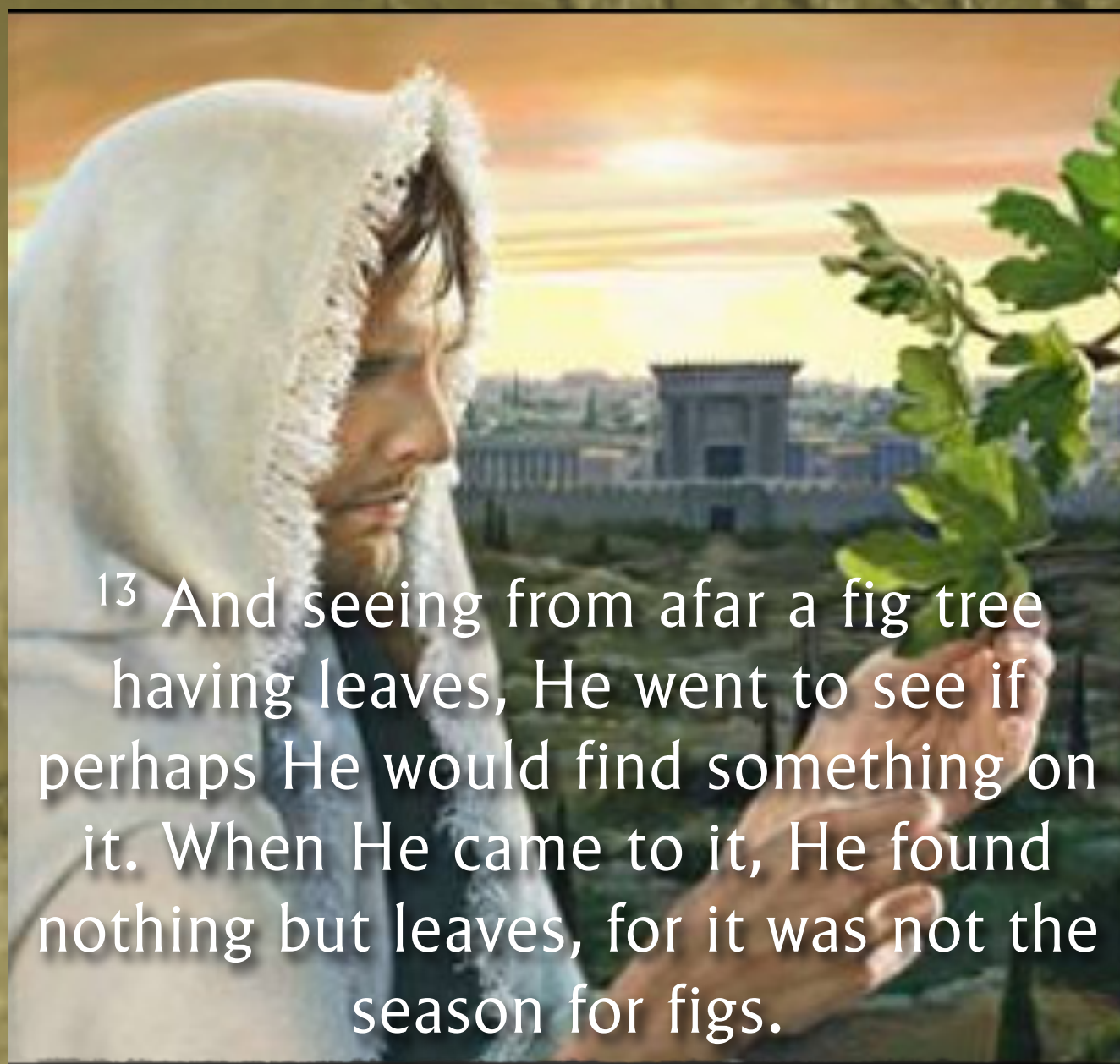


¹³ And seeing from afar a fig tree having leaves, He went to see if perhaps He would find something on it. When He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs.

- Jesus desired to find fruit in Israel - God's chosen people - Deut 7:6; Is a43:21; Ezek 22:30; Mat 23:37; John 4:23,24; Acts 13:46,47
- Jesus Has The Right To Expect Fruit In Us - Phili 1:11; Mat 25:14-30

Nothing But Leaves

What Jesus Sought & Seeks

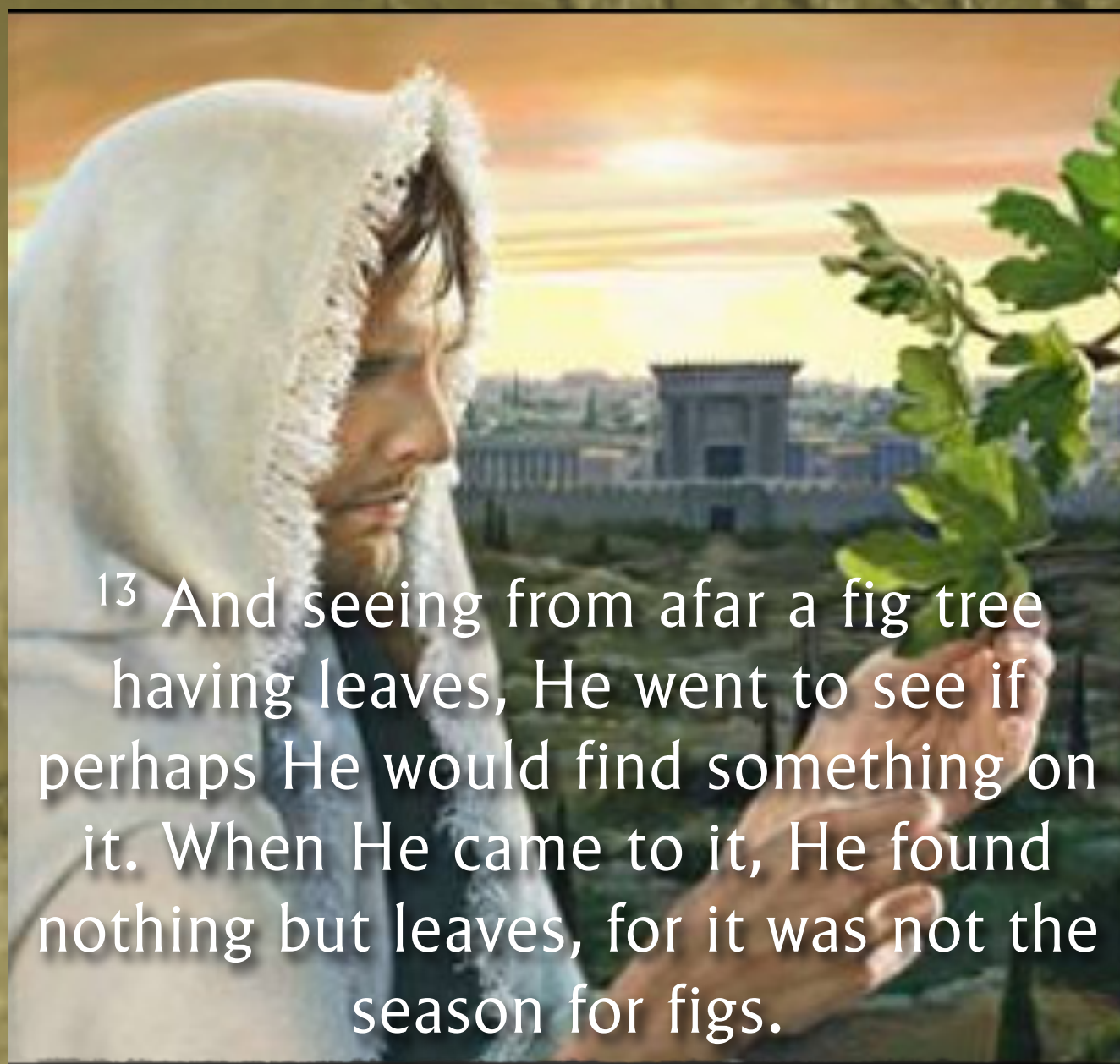


¹³ And seeing from afar a fig tree having leaves, He went to see if perhaps He would find something on it. When He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs.

- We are God's holy & special people – 2 Cor 6:14-7:1; 1 Pet 1:13-19; Tit 2:14
- We should be fruitful unto every good work – Jn 15:1-10; Co 1:10; Eph 2:10
- True worshippers - Jn 4:24
- We should bear the fruit of the Spirit – Gal 5:22,23
- We should be growing spiritually – 2 Pet 1:5-10

Nothing But Leaves

What Jesus Sought & Seeks



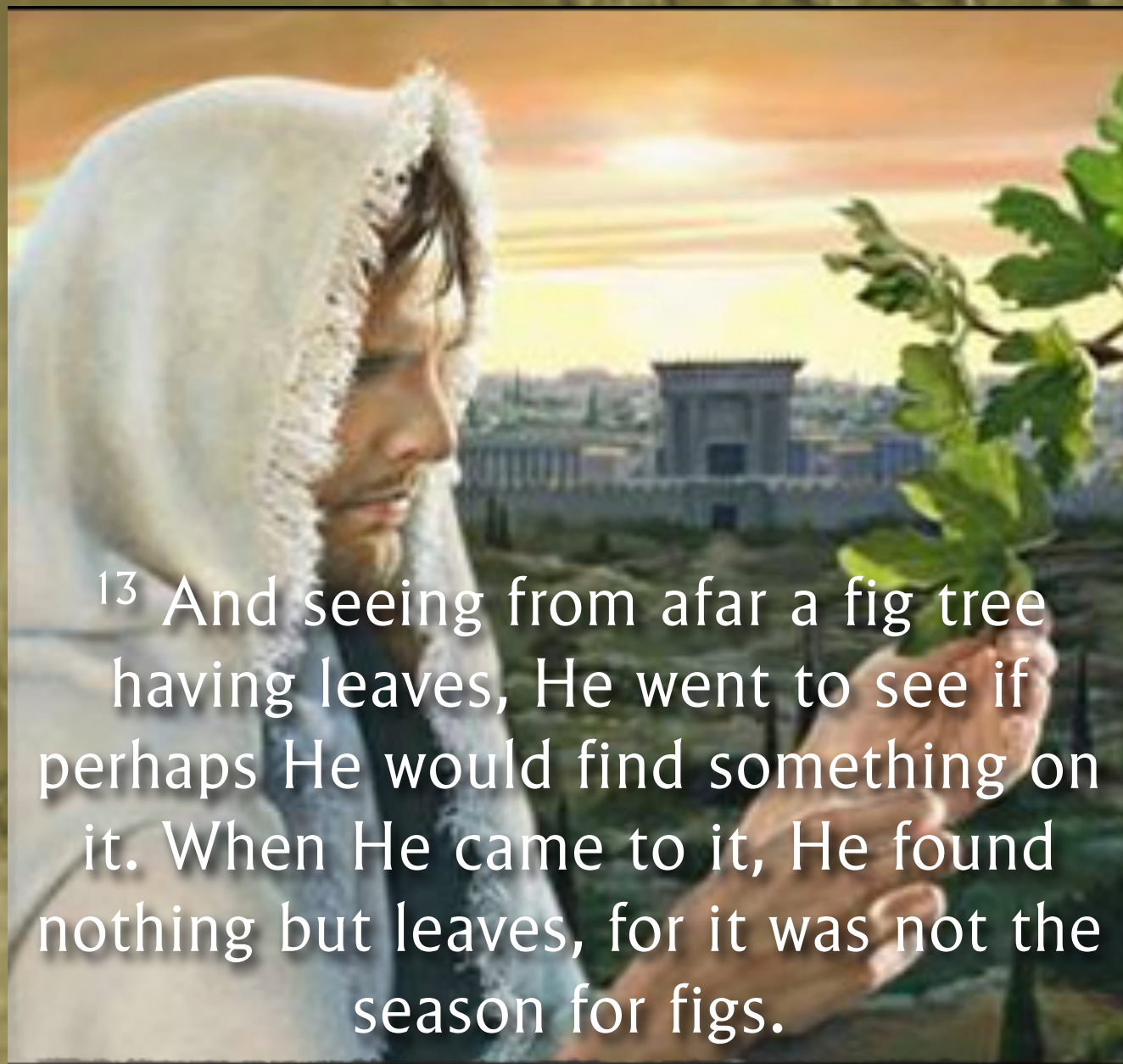
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ROMANS 12:1-2 (NKJV)

¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Nothing But Leaves

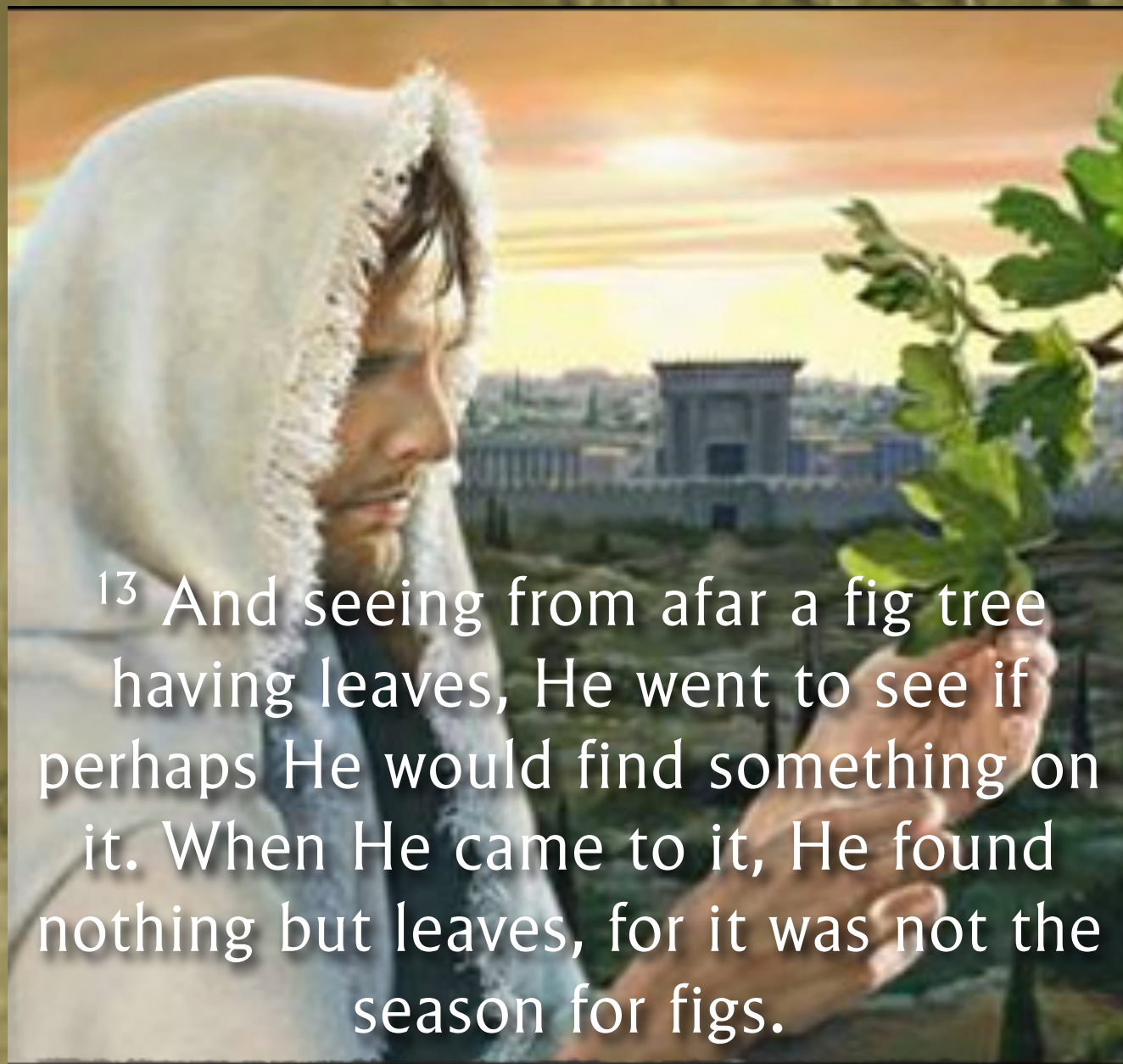
What Jesus Found & Finds



- The tree had the appearance of fruit but had none, it made a false profession.
- In Israel – (15-18; 12; cf. Mat 21-24) - blind guides - (Mat 23:24) - hypocrites - (Mat 23:27,28) - caused others to blaspheme - (Rom 2:17-24)
- The fig tree is a graphic illustration of the pretense of the Jewish nation & its worship - Mat 15:7-9

Nothing But Leaves

What Jesus Found & Finds



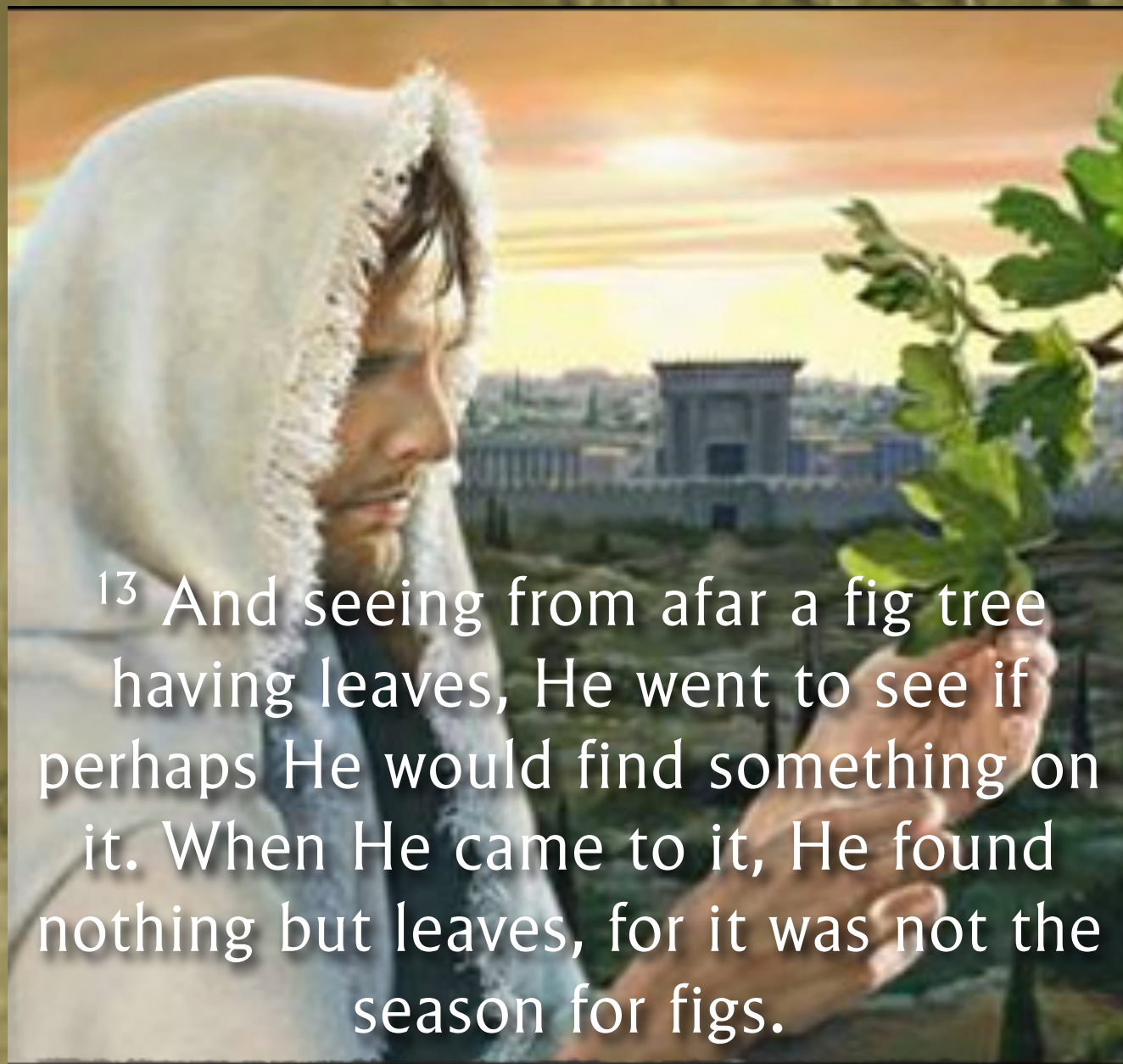
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● **What Does Jesus Find In His People Today?**

- ◆ A people who worship in Spirit & Truth? – Jn 4:24
- ◆ A people who speak where the Bible speaks? – 1 Pt 4:11
- ◆ A people who diligently seeks for truth? – Acts 17:11,12; 2 Tim 2:15; 2 Cor 13:5
- ◆ A people who are bearing fruit for the Lord? – Mat 13:23; Gal 5:22,23; etc.

Nothing But Leaves

What Jesus Found & Finds

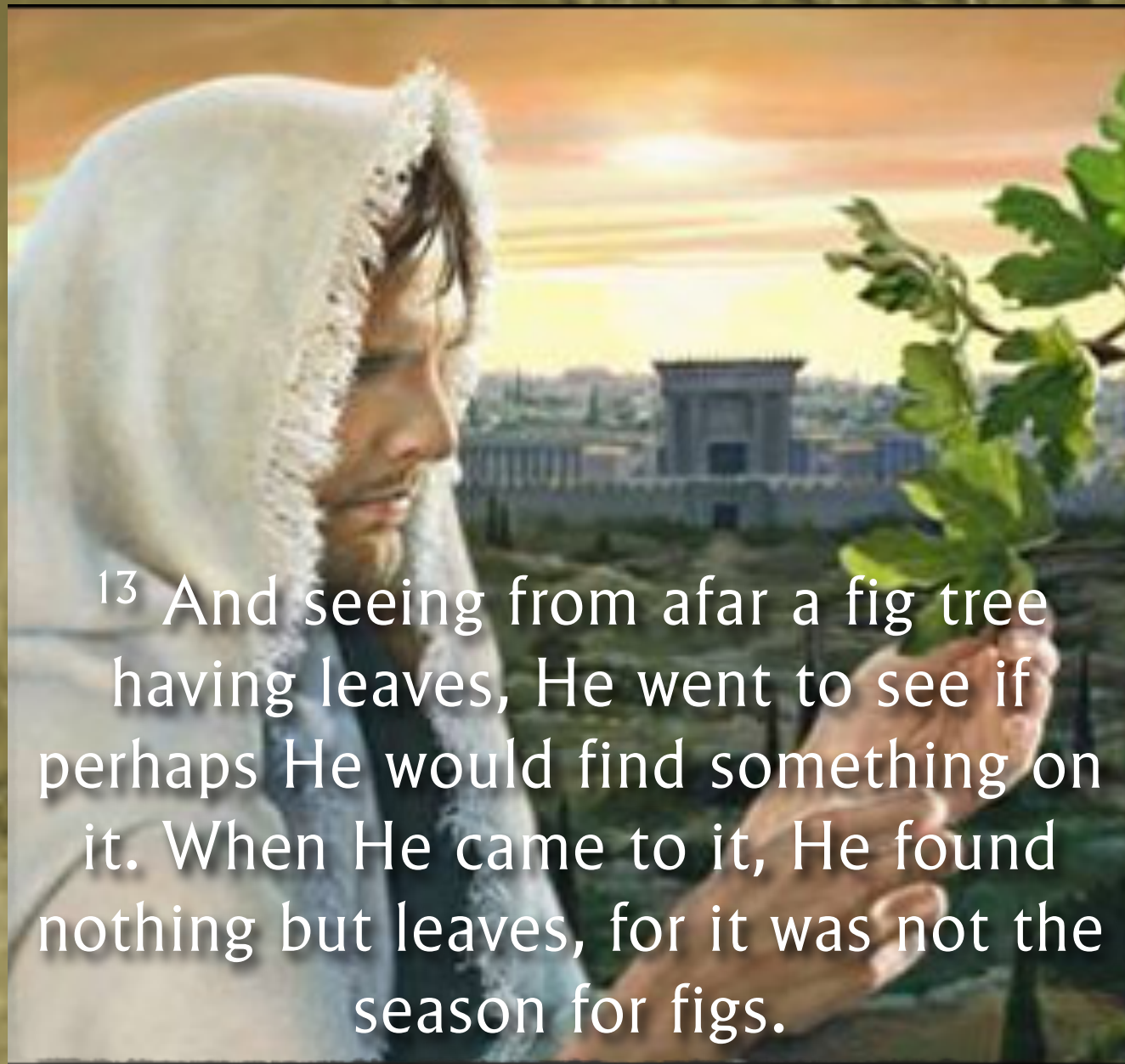


● What Does Jesus Find In His People Today?

- ◆ Unauthorized practices? - Men's innovations - 1 Chron 13,15; Col 3:17; 2 Jn 9
- ◆ Just going through the motions? - Insincere? - Lack love? - Rev 2:1-4
- ◆ Hypocritical? - Gal 2:11-14
- ◆ Apathetic? - Rev 3:14-22
- ◆ Not growing, i.e. NOT bearing fruit? - John 15:1-10

Nothing But Leaves

What Jesus Found & Finds

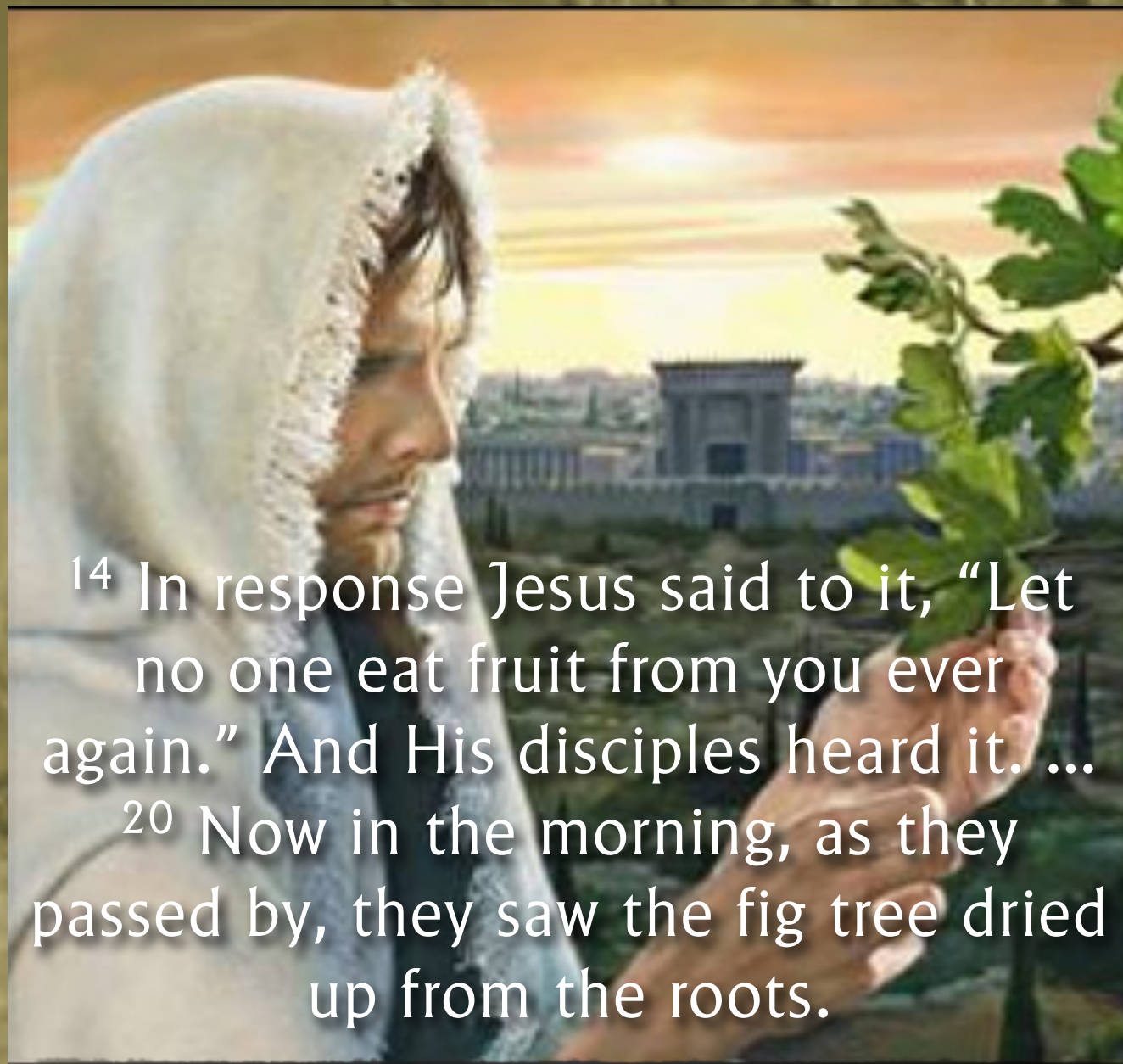


¹³ And seeing from afar a fig tree having leaves, He went to see if perhaps He would find something on it. When He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs.

**If Jesus
Returned TODAY
– Would You,
[We] Be Found
To Be Fruitful?
– Mat 25:14-30**

Nothing But Leaves

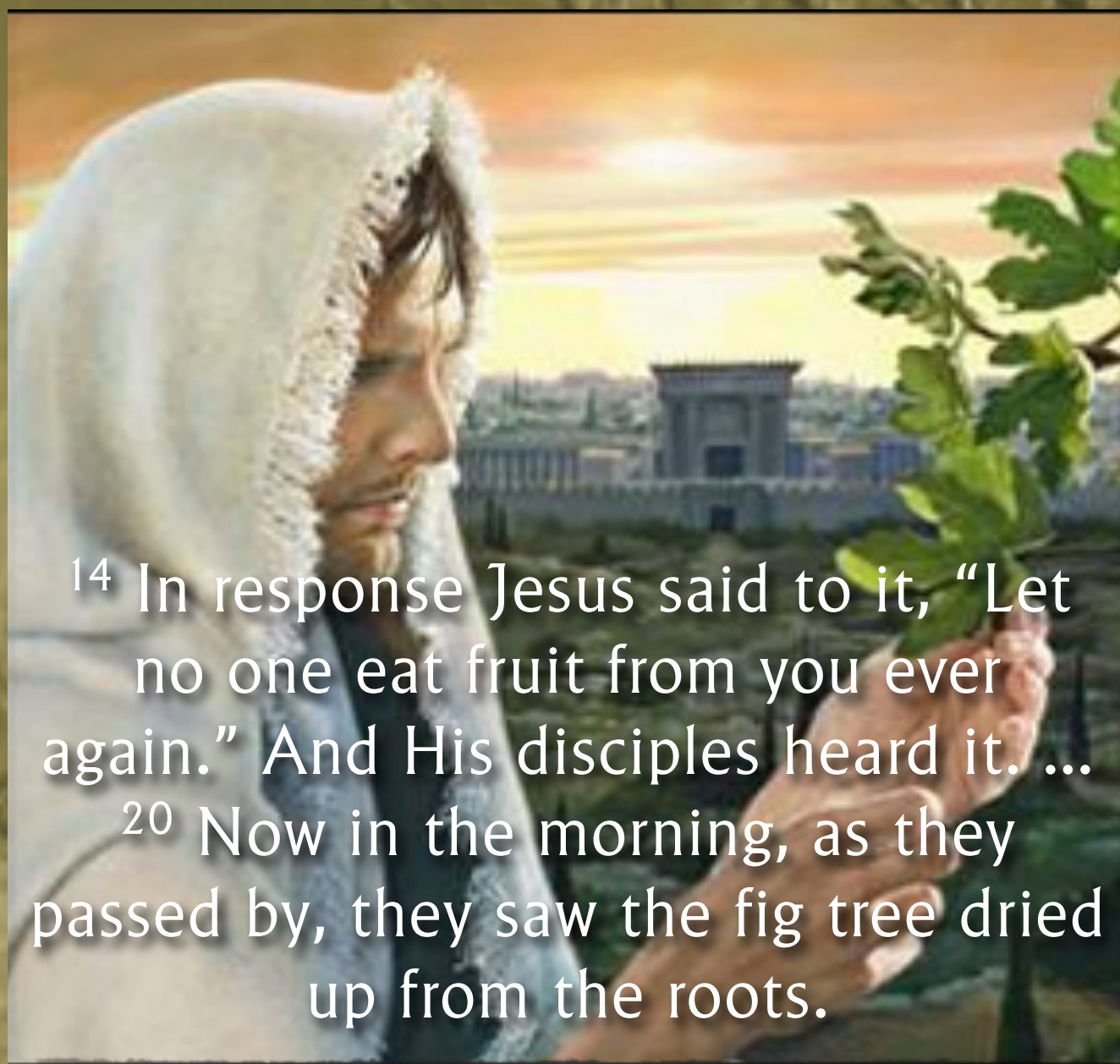
What Jesus Did & Will Do



- **With the fig tree –**
Cursing – "Let no one eat fruit from you ever again." (11:14)
- **With Israel –** Warned them, (1 Kings 9:6-9; Mat 3:10), Cursed them (Mat 23:29-36); Destroyed them, (Mat 24; Luke 19:43,44); (70 AD)
- **With Me & Us?**

Nothing But Leaves

What Jesus Did & Will Do

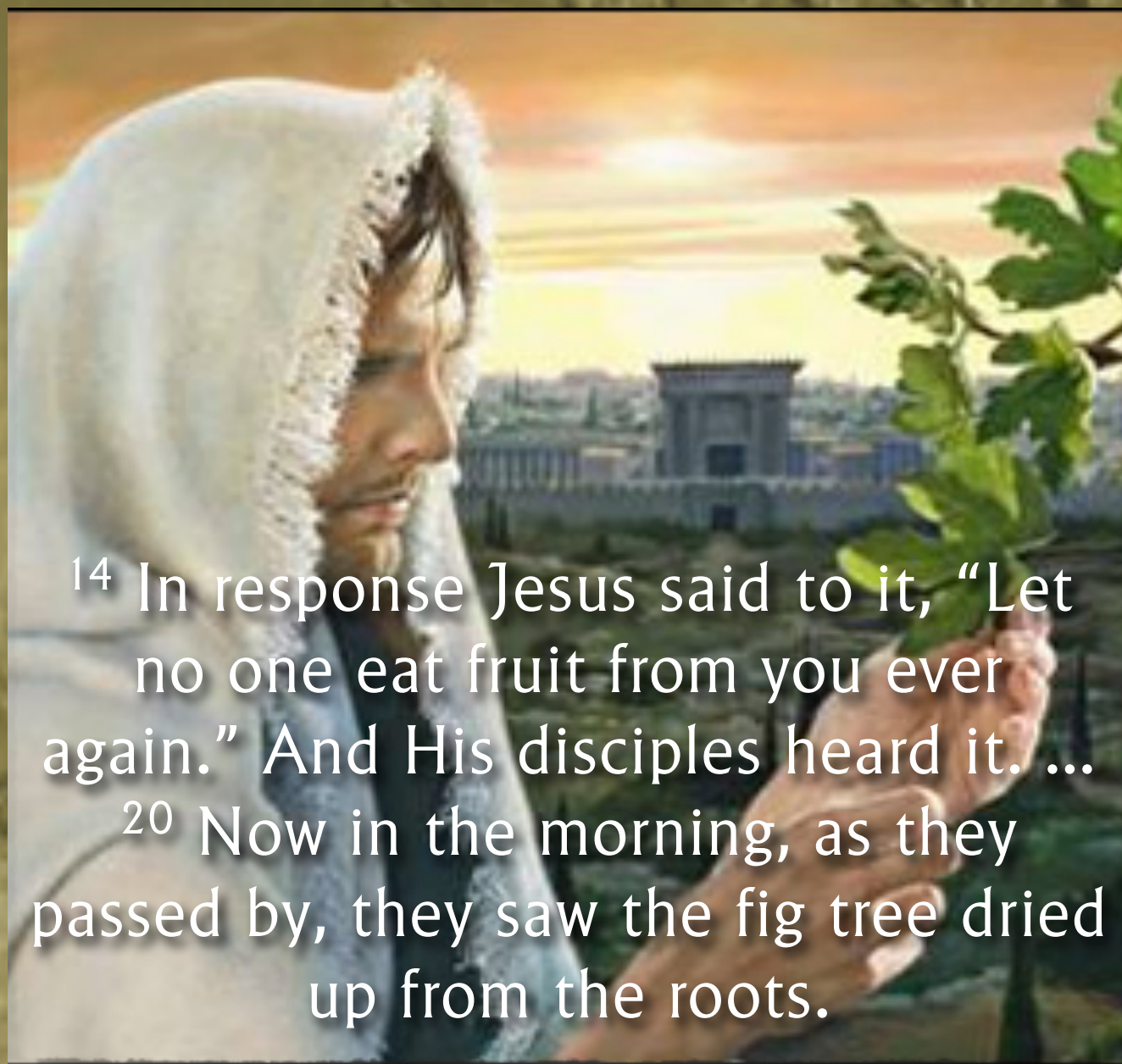


"I know your works, . . ."
Rev 2:2,9,13,19; 3:1,8,15

- Those who are rich in good works - (Rom 2:7)
- Good and faithful servants . . .
– (Mat 25:23, 34)
- The steadfast & unmovable –
(1 Cor. 15:58)
- Those who sow to the Spirit –
(Gal 6:7-9)
- 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord . . .'" Rev 14:13

Nothing But Leaves

What Jesus Did & Will Do



¹⁴ In response Jesus said to it, "Let no one eat fruit from you ever again." And His disciples heard it. ...

²⁰ Now in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots.

"I know your works, . . ."
Rev 2:2,9,13,19; 3:1,8,15

- Those who bear thorns & briars will be burned – (Heb 6:8; 2 Thes 1:7-9)
- Those with no fruit will be "cut off" – (John 15:1-6)
- Those who are unprofitable will be cast away - into "outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." – (Mat 25:30)

Nothing But Leaves

What does Jesus Seek in You / Us Today?

FRUIT - OBEDIENCE / LOVE / FAITHFULNESS

What Would Jesus Find In You / Us Today?

What Would Jesus Do With You / Us Today?

MARK 11:12-14

Nothing But Leaves

Charts by Don McClain

Prepared December 5,6, 2014

Preached – December 7, 2014

West 65th Street church of Christ

P.O. Box 190062

Little Rock AR 72219

501-568-1062

Prepared using Keynote

Email – donmcclain@sbcglobal.net

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Luke 13:1-9 (NKJV)

¹ There were present at that season some who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ² And Jesus answered and said to them, “Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all *other* Galileans, because they suffered such things?



Luke 13:1-9 (NKJV)

³ I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish. ⁴ Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all *other* men who dwelt in Jerusalem? ⁵ I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.”



Luke 13:1-9 (NKJV)

⁶ He also spoke this parable: “A certain *man* had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. ⁷ Then he said to the keeper of his vineyard, ‘Look, for three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree and find none. Cut it down; why does it use up the ground?’



Luke 13:1-9 (NKJV)

⁸ But he answered and said to him,
'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I
dig around it and fertilize *it*. ⁹ And
if it bears fruit, *well*. But if not, after
that you can cut it down.' "

