



## [Matthew 21:21-22](#)

(21) So Jesus answered and said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ it will be done. (22) And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.”

## [Mark 11:22-24](#)

(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*.”

*New King James Version*

The miracle of Christ's withering of the fig tree reveals His divine and human natures. As [God](#), He withered the tree in judgment. As Man, He needed the sleep His friends' home in Bethany provided as well as the tree's food to sustain Him, as “He was hungry.”

Although He could have satisfied His hunger with a miracle, He showed self-restraint in the use of His supernatural power to teach a valuable lesson to His disciples. He would not use it to provide for His personal wants or for those of His disciples. Nor would He work a miracle just to impress others. He would not do so to increase His earthly influence or power or to terrorize people into accepting His teaching. If a need could be fulfilled by human effort, or if lessons would be useful, [Jesus](#) would do no miracle.

Self-restraint requires [faith](#). Jesus withered the fig tree to teach His disciples a lesson in faith because, if they had genuine faith in God, they would not only be able to affect nature miraculously as Jesus did with the tree, but also move mountains ([Matthew 17:20](#)). If they truly believed and asked according to God's will, they would receive whatever they prayed for.

— Martin G. Collins

**To learn more, see:**

[The Miracles of Jesus Christ: The Withering of a Fig Tree](#)

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[Asking According to God's Will](#)

[Jesus Curses Fig Tree](#)

[Jesus' Cursing of the Fig Tree](#)

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