

The ‘Fruitless Autumn Trees’ Metaphor

In our lesson text, Jude used five metaphors to teach the church about the dangers of opponents of Contenders of the Faith: **hidden reefs**, **waterless clouds**, **fruitless autumn trees**, **wild waves of sea**, and **wandering stars**.

In our last lesson, we studied Jude’s metaphor of **Hidden Reefs**. We learned that the danger of hidden reefs is that a believer’s faith can become shipwrecked by false teachings (1 Tim.1:18-20).

We also learned that Jude attached a **special doctrinal phrase** with each metaphor **except ‘waterless cloud’** of today’s lesson.

Jude also used the **Greek participle as a grammatical serial marker** to make an internal doctrinal point with each metaphor **except ‘wandering stars’**:

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| • <u>hidden reefs</u> | (caring for themselves) | [poimaino / p.a.ptc.nplm] |
| • <u>waterless clouds</u> | (carried along by winds) | [paraphero/ p.p.ptc.nplf] |
| • <u>fruitless autumn trees</u> | (dead) | [a.a.ptc and uprooted - a.p.ptc] |
| • <u>wild waves of sea</u> | (casting) | [p.a.ptc] |
| • wandering stars | (reserved) | [perf.p.ind]. |

Today’s lesson will study **THREE** aspects of ‘Fruitless Autumn Tree’ metaphor.

1. In today’s metaphor of the Fruitless (akarpos) autumn tree, Jude used two participle (ptc.) markers: **doubly dead** (dis apothneskob / a.a.ptc.npln) and **uprooted** (ekrizoo / a.p.ptc.npln).

The opponents of the Contender of the Faith are described as without fruit, doubly dead, and uprooted.

Doubly dead means they are unable to fulfill their divine purpose to be fruitful. They have died in regard to their creative productive purpose (Gen.1:11-12) [Day 3] [seed and fruit] [put on Ark]; (Gen.6:21).

They **will be uprooted** (passive voice) [something they receive outside of themselves] because they have lost their creative divine purpose of producing fruit.

2. Jesus taught a similar lesson about production of fruit when He cursed a wild fig tree during preparation for Passover (Matt.21:18-22).

Why do trees die? (Gen.2:16-17; 2:9; 3:24; Rev.22:2, 14; Rom.8:18-23) [Adam’s Original Sin] (AOS).

On the way to the cross, Jesus cursed the fig tree because it had **leaves, but no fruit** (Matt.21:19). If there are leaves on fig tree, then it must have fruit or it will have a barren season.

Pay attention to the **doctrinal message** Jesus taught by two 3rd Class Condition (3cc) “if” clauses. (Matt.21:21-22).

“**Truly I say to you, if (3cc) [volitional] you have faith and do not doubt, you will** not only do what was done to the **fig tree**,

“**but even if (3cc) you say to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and cast into the sea,’ it will happen.”**

(Matt.21:21; James 1:5-8) “And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.” (Matt.21:22);
(1 John 5:14-15)

How did this fig tree survive the flood and what does that teach us? It teaches the faithfulness of God to provide logistical grace to the righteous as well as the unrighteous (Gen.6:21; Phil.4:19; Matt.5:45).

The fig tree has a history in redemption as well as creation that goes back to the fall of Adam.

(Gen.3:7) “Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they **sewed fig leaves** together and made themselves **loin covering.**”

Satan’s attack upon the messianic seed - false covering for Adams’s Original Sin (AOS)

(Gen.3:11) “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?”

(Gen.3:21) “The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them.”

Later Abel’s blood offering. (Gen. 4:4) and (Heb.11:4; 12:24; 9:22; 10:1-10) [Both Shadow Christology] (John 1:29)

3. James offers additional doctrinal insight into meaning of the metaphor of “doubly dead”.

(James 2:17) “Even **so** (houstos / demonstrative adv). in the same way [referring back to last statement of (James 2:16) **faith** (he pistis), if (3cc) it has (echo / p.a.subj) **no works, is dead** (nekros), being by itself.”

Faith must have a reliable working object to complete it. For the Church Age Believer (CAB), the reliable faith is always the word of God because it depends upon the essence of God fulfills it (Rom.4:21).

James is making the point from the viewpoint of a destitute CAB that a statement of faith (James 2:16) is not as important as an action of faith (James 2:18) in meeting the need (James 2:14-17).

When action or application of faith is necessary, statement or what you believe faith becomes fruitless or operationally and observationally dead to those in destitute need. It is important to complete the faith cycle.

We are to BE

CONTENDERS OF THE FAITH

Not like “Autumn Trees without fruit, doubly dead”, and uprooted.