

PORTRAIT  
OF THE  
*King*



ADMINISTRATION

**“Proving Our Faith”**

**MATTHEW 21:18-22**



“Today Christians...stand at the head of [this country]...I pledge that I never will tie myself to parties who want to destroy Christianity...We want to fill our culture again with the Christian spirit...We want to burn out all the recent immoral developments in literature, in the theater, and in the press—in short, we want to burn out the poison of immorality which has entered into our whole life and culture as a result of liberal excess during the past ... (few) years.”

**Who Said It?**



# Jesus' Final Week (Passion Week)

SUNDAY	Triumphal Entry
MONDAY	Request from Greeks to see Jesus, cleansing the Temple
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b><i>Cursing of the fig tree</i></b> , challenge to Christ's authority, Olivet Discourse
WEDNESDAY	Fig tree withered, arrangements for betrayal
THURSDAY	Last Supper, Upper Room Discourse
FRIDAY	Betrayal, arrest, trials, crucifixion, burial
SATURDAY	
SUNDAY	Post-resurrection appearances

- Israel a land of grapes and figs (Num 13:23)
- A symbol of prosperity for the Jewish people (I Kings 4:25)
- A delicacy put into cakes to carry the symbol of prosperity and celebration (I Sam 25)
- Used to heal King Hezekiah (II Kings 20)



**Fig Tree**

- Fruitless fig trees were a symbol of God's judgment.

*“All the host of heaven shall rot away, and the skies roll up like a scroll. All their host shall fall, as leaves fall from the vine, like leaves falling from the fig tree.” (Isa 34:4)*



**Fig Tree**

- Fruitless fig trees were a symbol of God's judgment.

*“They shall eat up your harvest and your food; they shall eat up your sons and your daughters; they shall eat up your flocks and your herds; they shall eat up your vines and your fig trees; your fortified cities in which you trust they shall beat down with the sword.” (Jer 5:17)*



**Fig Tree**

- Fruitless fig trees were a symbol of God's judgment.

*“<sup>6</sup> For a nation has come up against my land, powerful and beyond number; its teeth are lions' teeth, and it has the fangs of a lioness. <sup>7</sup> It has laid waste my vine and splintered my fig tree; it has stripped off their bark and thrown it down; their branches are made white.” (Joel 1:6-7)*



**Fig Tree**



- Fruitless fig trees were a symbol of God's **judgment**. Other examples – Genesis 3; Jeremiah 8; Hosea 2



**Fig Tree**

- Zeal but no knowledge (Rom 10:2)
- Appeared to be godly but no power (II Tim 3:5)
- Hidden reefs, waterless clouds, fruitless trees (Jude 12)



**Fruitless fig Tree**

**KEY POINT:**

A person without **faith** is a person without **fruit**.



*You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly,  
to spend it on your passions.*

**James 4:3**



*And this is the confidence that we have toward him,  
that if we ask anything according to his will he hears  
us.*

**I John 5:14**



“...was tortured with red-hot iron pokers and with knives. He was beaten very badly. Then starving rats were driven into his cell through a large pipe. He could not sleep because he had to defend himself all the time. If he rested a moment, the rats would attack him. He was forced to stand for two weeks, day and night. The Communists wished to compel him to betray his ...

**Richard Wurmbrand,**  
*Tortured for Christ*



... brethren, but he resisted steadfastly...

Handcuffs with sharp nails on the insides were placed on our wrists. If we were totally still, they didn't cut us. But in the bitterly cold cells, when we shook with cold, our wrists would be torn by the nails.

Christians were hung upside-down on ropes and beaten so severely that their bodies swung back and ...

**Richard Wurmbrand,**  
*Tortured for Christ*



... forth under the blows. Christians were also placed in ice-box 'refrigerator cells,' which were so cold that frost and ice covered the inside. I was thrown into one while I had very little clothing on. Prison doctors would watch through an opening until they saw symptoms of freezing to death, then they would give a signal and guards would rush in to take us out and make ...

**Richard Wurmbrand,**  
*Tortured for Christ*





... us warm. When we were finally warmed, we would immediately be put back into the ice-box cells to freeze. Thawing out, then freezing to within minutes of death, then being thawed out—over and over again!...

We Christians were sometimes forced to stand in wooden boxes only slightly larger than we were. This left no room to move. Dozens of sharp nails were ...

**Richard Wurmbrand,**  
*Tortured for Christ*



... driven into every side of the box, with their razor-sharp points sticking through the wood. While we stood perfectly still, it was all right. But we were forced to stand in these boxes for endless hours; when we became fatigued and swayed with tiredness, the nails would pierce our bodies. If we moved or twitched a muscle—there were the horrible nails.”

**Richard Wurmbrand,**  
*Tortured for Christ*



“When I look back on my fourteen years in prison, it was occasionally a very happy time. Other prisoners and even the guards very often wondered at how happy Christians could be under the most terrible circumstances. We could not be prevented from singing, although we were beaten for this. I imagine that nightingales, too, would sing,...

**Richard Wurmbrand,**  
*Tortured for Christ*

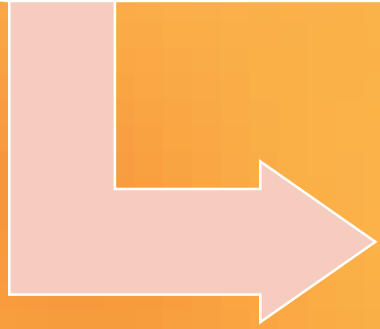


“... even if they knew that after finishing they would be killed for it. Christians in prison danced for joy.”

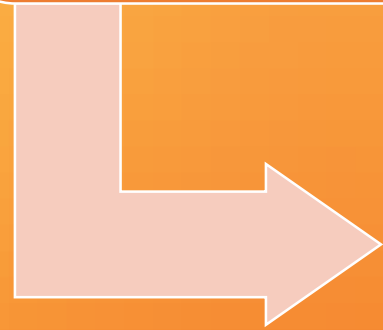
**Richard Wurmbrand,**  
*Tortured for Christ*



We pray  
what He  
wants.



He grants  
what we  
pray.



Proof we are  
genuine  
Christians.



*<sup>13</sup> Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.*

**John 14:13-14**



**KEY POINT:**

A person without **faith** is a person without **fruit**.



*For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

**Ephesians 2:10**





## KEY POINT:

A person without faith is a person without fruit.

