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***“The next morning as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry. He noticed a fig tree in full leaf a little way off, so he went over to see if he could find any figs. But there were only leaves because it was too early in the season for fruit. Then Jesus said to the tree, “May no one ever eat your fruit again!” And the disciples heard him say it.” ~Mark 11:12-14***

***“That evening Jesus and the disciples left the city (Jerusalem).***

***“The next morning as they passed by the fig tree he had cursed, the disciples noticed it had withered from the roots up. Peter remembered what Jesus had said to the tree on the previous day and exclaimed, “Look, Rabbi! The fig tree you cursed has withered and died!”***

***“Then Jesus said to the disciples, “Have faith in God. I tell you the truth, you can say to this mountain, ‘May you be lifted up and thrown into the sea,’ and it will happen. But you must really believe it will happen and have no doubt in your heart. I tell you, you can pray for anything, and if you believe that you’ve received it, it will be yours. But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too.” ~Mark 11:19-25***

 We had revival services at our church this week. One of the messages that the speaker gave centered around this passage of Scripture. He admitted that he used to feel sorry for the fig tree. After all, it clearly states that it wasn’t the season for figs. In that part of the world, there are two crops of figs, one in June and another in September; this was April. The fact that there were no figs should have come to a shock to no one. It wasn’t the fig tree’s fault. That wasn’t the point of the encounter, however. Jesus used it to show us that we are to expect the unexpected, to expect fruit even out of season. Your expectations go a long way toward what you get out of life.

 Are you expecting a bad day? You’ll probably get it. Are you expecting good things? You’ll probably get those too. It has to do with your expectations and your perspective. When the disciples see that the fig tree that Jesus cursed has withered and died, they are surprised. He tells them that all they need to accomplish amazing feats is faith.

 Believe without a doubt and don’t be surprised when it happens. What is your fig tree? What is your mountain? Expect the unexpected.