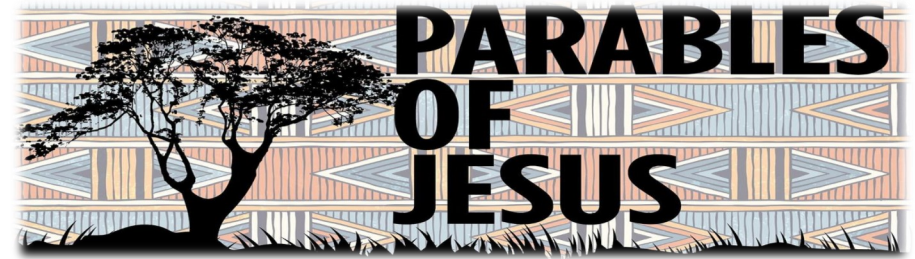


Reflection Questions: Am I ready for the events of the future? Will I be raptured with the Lord's people and go into His presence or will I be left to endure the holocaust that follows? How do I know?

How can we pray for one another this week?



Parable of the Fig Tree
Matthew 24:32-35

Sermon
Notes

July 19, 2020

1. The Parable (32)

2. The Explanation (33-34)

3. The Certainty (35)

Quotes to Ponder

If the Son Himself, does not know the time of the coming, how cheerfully should we, His followers rest in ignorance that cannot be removed, trusting in all things to our heavenly Father's wisdom and goodness? Striving to obey His clearly revealed will and leaning on His goodness for support? The timing of the coming of the Son of Man is unknown to any.

John Broaddus

Jesus certainly thought that His second coming would occur in clouds of glory before the death of all the people who were living at that time. In that respect, clearly He was not so wise as some other people have been, and He was certainly not superlatively wise.

Bertrand Russell

In the absence of any specific Scripture making the fig tree a type of Israel, it is better to interpret the fig tree as a natural illustration which is quite

John Walvoord

As difficult as these verses are, as difficult as the passage is as a whole, especially in its details, the main themes are very clear. God is gracious to us. When He challenges us in His Word, even with hard passages, His point is to comfort and strengthen His people.

Ligon Duncan

The Parousia is near ... not in the sense that it must necessarily occur within a few months or years, but in the sense that it may occur at any moment and in the sense that, since the decisive event of history has already taken place in the ministry, death, resurrection and ascension of Christ, all subsequent history is a kind of epilogue, an interval inserted by God's mercy in order to allow men time for repentance, and, as such an epilogue, necessarily in a real sense short, even though it may last a very long time.

C.E.B. Cranfield

1. What in the text/sermon impacted you most? Encouraged you? Convinced you? Challenged you? Confused you? Comforted you?
2. What is the hope of every Christian? Support your answer with Scripture.
3. When you read Scripture about the end times, what feelings do you have? Why?
4. Read *Matthew 24:1-35*. How can one know when Christ's return is imminent?

What do these signs mean?

What should be the response of those who see these signs?

5. Read *Matthew 24:32-35*, *Mark 13:28-29*, and *Luke 21:29-31*. How are these accounts of this parable similar? Different?
6. What, if anything, does the fig tree represent?
7. What were the disciples' questions that Jesus was answering (*Matthew 24:3*)?
8. What were the disciples to *learn* from this parable (*Matthew 24:32*)?

9. What was Jesus referring to when He said, *when you see all these things (Matthew 24:33)*?
10. In *Matthew 24:34*, Jesus said *this generation*. What are some of the possible meanings of this? What seems the probable interpretation? Why?
11. How do we know the disciples are not the ones Jesus referred to in *Matthew 24:34* (cf. *Matthew 24:30-31*)?
12. In what ways are the rapture of the church and Jesus' second coming distinct from one another? Do you have Scripture to back this up?
13. What was Jesus saying in *Matthew 24:35*?

What do these verses add to your understanding?

Matthew 5:18 —

John 10:35 —

Luke 16:17 —

14. How does the truth from *Matthew 24:35* and *Psalms 17:7-11* affect you?
15. What is the meaning of this parable of the fig tree?