

Matthew 24:32-34 The Parable of the Fig Tree

Introduction: Jesus spoke this parable on Mount Olive, where not only numerous olive trees grew, but also fig.

I. What is the meaning of the parable?

- A. Jesus pointed out the budding of the fig tree as a sign that summer is near.
 - 1. Every year as winter draws to a close we look for signs of spring.
 - 2. Some of the signs are not dependable.
(The peach, pear, and plum tree may bloom and get killed in the bloom by cold weather.)
 - 3. But when the fig tree buds you can depend on it, summer is near.
- B. In like manner when certain things take place one can know that the coming of Jesus is very near – even at the doors.
 - 1. Some translations read, “He is near, even at the door.”
 - 2. The idea is: Just as the budding of the fig indicates the nearness of summer, even so these signs indicate the nearness of the coming of Jesus. (At the door is very near.)

II. What things indicate the nearness of His coming?

- A. Jesus said, “When ye shall see all these things”; what things?
- B. Answer: the five external and internal signs.
 - 1. The external (false Christs, wars, famines, pestilences, and earthquakes.)
 - 2. The internal (persecutions, forsaking Christianity, false prophets, the love of many waxing cold, and the gospel preached in all the world.)
- C. Keep in mind that it is an intensification of these things.
(Not just one false Christ, one war, one famine, one pestilence, etc.)
- D. Furthermore Jesus mentioned other things:
 - 1. The abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet.
 - 2. The Great Tribulation.
 - 3. The darkening of the sun, moon, and stars.
 - 4. The sign of the Son of Man in the heavens.
- E. “When you see all this know that it is even at the doors.”

III. What generation was Jesus talking about?

- A. Jesus said, “This generation shall not pass till all these things be fulfilled.” What generation?
- B. If He was talking about the generation that then lived He missed the boat. He was wrong.
 - 1. We know that Jesus was never wrong.
 - 2. Thus we know that He was not talking about the disciples and their generation.
- C. What Jesus was talking about was a generation yet to come.
 - 1. He was talking about the generation who would see the ten signs be fulfilled and intensify, verses 5-14.
 - 2. That same generation would see the Gentile invasion of the Holy land, verse 15.
 - 3. That same generation would see the Great Tribulation with the Armageddon war, verses 16-22.
 - 4. That same generation would see the geological disturbances that would darken the sun, moon, and stars, verse 29.
 - 5. That same generation will see the sign and see Jesus coming, verse 30.
 - 6. In other words, once the show gets underway it won't stop until it is all finished in one generation. (About forty years.)
 - 7. In other words, once it starts it is at the doors.

IV. When should we start looking for Jesus?

- A. Do we wait until we see this sign in the heavens? Not if we are smart. Not if we are wise.
- B. Do we wait until the volcanoes erupt and darken the sun, moon, and stars? Again – not if we are wise.
- C. Do we wait until the Anti-Christ is on the scene and we are sure the Great Tribulation is here? Not if we are wise.
- D. Do we wait until the Gentile armies invade the Holy Land? (Not if we are wise.)
- E. If we are wise enough to see the fig tree bud and conclude that summer is nigh, we ought to be wise enough to see these signs being fulfilled and know that the coming of Jesus is near at hand.
- F. He probably will come within our generation.
 - 1. It is our generation which has seen Israel become a nation once again and have seen the Gentile nations threaten to destroy her.
 - 2. Just this week (September, 1986) Ayatollah Khomeini of Iran declared a holy war on Israel and the United States. (He called on all Muslims.)
 - 3. The scientists believe that within our generation great geological upheavals will take place.
 - 4. If I am dead before He comes, I will not expect to stay in the grave very long.

Conclusion: We need to watch for His coming and prepare for His coming. He has already come once and because He came we have the opportunity to be saved. Are you saved? Are you living for Him as He would have you to do?

Preached at Pleasant Hill 9-21-86 A.M.