

The Parable of the Fig Tree

Matt. 24:32

Introduction:

- A. “The Bible says before the end of time you can’t tell summer from winter except for budding of leaves.”
 - 1. A good example of misquoted and misapplied Scripture.
 - 2. A good example of careless reading (Read verses 32, 33 carefully).
- B. “Bible says that just before the end of time there will be wars and rumors of wars.”
 - 1. Does verse 6 refer to signs immediately before the end of time?
 - 2. Or Does verse 6 refer to signs immediately before the end of something else?
- C. Matthew 24 deals to with two questions — not just one:

Discussion:

I. Question One: “When Shall These Things Be?” — Answered vv. 4-35.

- A. Jesus gave *conditions* to look for before destruction of the temple (vv. 1, 2).
 - 1. Physical conditions (vv. 6-8).
 - 2. Spiritual conditions.
 - a. Deception (vv. 5, 11).
 - b. Persecution (v. 9).
 - c. Apostasy (vv.10, 12).
 - d. World evangelism (v. 14; Col. 1:6,23).
- B. Jesus gave *instructions* that could not apply to the second coming.
 - 1. Flee to mountains (v. 16).
 - 2. Flee in haste, pray for no hindrance (vv. 17-22).
 - 3. Believe no false reports about the Christ (vv. 23-28).
- C. Jesus gave assurance that this would be fulfilled in that generation (vv. 29-34).

II. Question Two: “What Shall be Sign of Your Coming... End of Age (World)?” — Answered vv. 36ff)

- A. Second coming unannounced — no signs (vv. 36-44),
- B. Second coming must be constantly prepared for.
 - 1. Parable of evil servant (24: 44-51).
 - 2. Parable of virgins (25:1-13).
 - 3. Parable of Talents (25:14-30).
- C. Second coming will bring final judgment (25:31-46).

Conclusion:

- A. Two questions and answers must be considered separately.
 - 1. 1st could hardly refer to the second coming.
 - 2. 2nd could only refer to second coming.
- B. The second answer is important to us today. Are we prepared?