

The parable of the Fig Tree

Mark 13v28-37.

The Parable of the Fig Tree.

THE NEARNESS OF CHRIST'S RETURN v28-30.

Fig tree = the greening of the tree is evidence that summer is near. At Passover the leaves would just be appearing = sign of summer. Signs evidence that his coming is near - "these things" apply to v5-23.

Note some of the things Jesus himself has highlighted in the earlier verses. Note v5-7, they must not be deceived by false Messiah's who claim to be Christ who has come. They may hear of wars and rumours of war but this does not mean that the end has come. There were things to happen first.

v8 nation against nation

v8 earthquakes

v8 famines

v10 world-wide preaching

v11-13 religious persecution

v14 the worship of world leaders.

v22 False Christs and false prophets. "Glad to see you" = explained they were a sign of her coming Lord.

v30 The signs will start in this present generation.. How much nearer to that coming are we tonight? The last of the last days. It is "at the very doors". Have we as the Lord instructed us to do "learned" the parable? = Took it to heart?

THE SURENESS OF CHRIST'S RETURN v31.

The event is certain. It is his word. God's purpose cannot be shaken or overthrown - the disturbances mentioned in the earlier verses will not stop the fulfillment of his promise.

THE SUDDENNESS OF CHRIST'S RETURN v32-33

We don't know the day. God alone knows, so we must be ready for Christ to come at any moment. The event is certain, the moment is not. No event stands between the ascension and the second coming.

when we reach v35 = the four watches of the night according to Roman reckoning = he could come at any moment.

WATCHFULNESS FOR CHRIST'S RETURN v32-37.

We come to the parable of the Absent Householder. He has given to every man his work while he is away. Have we found our work? How are we getting on with it? Should never be found asleep or think we have plenty of time to do the things we ought to be doing. We ought to be involved in faithful service. The doctrine of Christ's return is designed to produce action more than contemplation.

He expects his servants to be awake and ready to open the door for him when he returns. We must be active and waiting. We are in fact to watch, to not be spiritually lethargic, to pray, to endeavour to have a living relationship with the Lord, and to work.

Note the "all" of v37. Are you ready - you personally?