



### Matthew 24:32-35

Matt. 24:3 Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be? **And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?**”

### Our text for this evening...

Matt. 24: 32 “Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near.

Matt. 24:33 So you also, when you see all these things, know that it (some ancient manuscripts read “He”) is near — at the doors!

Matt. 24:34 Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.

Matt. 24:35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

### Notes:

The word, "parable" is a transliteration of the Greek word *parabole*, which literally means "to throw alongside". For example, in a parallel Bible you'll find on one side of the page the language that you understand (English for example) and “thrown alongside of it” is a language you don't know (Russian for example). By laying them side-by-side you can understand what you don't know by comparing it to what you do know.

A parable is more than simply an analogy, or an illustration, because a parable communicates heavenly truths (spiritual) using earthly (material) comparisons or contrasts.

The purpose is to help our natural minds comprehend divine, or spiritual truth, by comparing divine true to things that we are familiar with.

In this next section of scripture we find Jesus sharing four different parables in which He compares four very familiar experiences from the Jewish culture of the 1st Century A.D. to communicate the spiritual importance of being...

...watchful for the signs of the last days and to be busy about His work.

## Observations & Discussion

1. What does a fig tree tell us about the change of seasons in Jerusalem?
2. How does a budding fig tree relate to the disciples question, “...*what will be the sign of your coming and the end of the age*”?
3. In verses 33 & 34 Jesus talks about “*all these things*”...what “*things*” was He talking about?
4. What can the generation that is alive to see all the things that Jesus talked about expect to come to pass while they are still living?
5. In vs. 24 Jesus said, “*Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.*” What generation is Jesus talking about?
6. Check out Hosea 9:10, Jeremiah 24, & Luke 13:6-9; what do figs and the fig tree represent? Do we see the “fig tree” blooming today? If so, what does that tell you about the times in which we live?
7. In view of the difficult times that Jesus described in the previous verses how will this parable bring hope to those living at that time?