

The Parable of the Fig Tree

Text: Luke 21:29-33

Overview

Jesus tells this simple parable to encourage His disciples when difficulty, suffering, calamity, and all kinds of hardship come their way. The present reality of these signs indicate that Jesus' return is near, just like budding leaves on the fig tree indicate summer is near. Jesus' word is trustworthy and sure because He forged the way, enduring great suffering on our account. He is God and the Word of our God will stand forever.

Scripture to Consider

Psalms 102:25-28; Isaiah 40:8, 51:4-8; Matthew 24:32-35, 28:18-20; Mark 13:28-31; Luke 21:18-19, 21:27; Acts 1:6-8; Philippians 4:4-7; James 5:9-11; 1 Peter 1:22-25, 4:7-11; 2 Peter 3:7-14; Revelation 21:3-4, 22:20;

Before You Meet

Read your Bible and write down some verses that describe what it will be like when Jesus returns. Consider how God says He uses His Word.

Discussion Questions

How is this parable an encouragement to persevere in faith and obedience until Christ returns? Where are all the signs of the times pointing toward? How does Jesus direct us to think about these signs, based upon this parable?

What does Jesus mean that "this generation will not pass away until all has taken place"? In what way has "this generation" who persecuted Christians in the first century remained even until now?

How are we meant to interpret the signs of the times according to Jesus? What does it mean that the Kingdom of God is near?

What will it be like when Jesus returns? Share the verses you collected for the Before You Meet. What is something you personally look forward to that Jesus will accomplish when He returns?

In the Gospel of Luke, what is about to happen to Jesus and His disciples following this text? How is Jesus preparing His disciples to go on without His direct presence? What does He give to them for continuing guidance, comfort, and teaching?

Read through Philippians 4:4-7. What is the motivating fact at the heart of this passage? Is there significance in the order of things? If so, explain.