

Sermon Discussion Guide:

The Parable of the Fig Tree

Scripture: **Luke 21:29–33**

Series: **The Gospel of Luke**

Sunday, March 22, 2020

OVERVIEW

When Jesus told His parable, He said, “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near.” This was Jesus’ way of illustrating to His disciples that the kingdom of God is near and encouraging them to discern the signs of the times—especially the final signs before His second coming. We don’t typically think of our present age as being in the “end times” or “last days,” but we are, in fact, living in the end times now. As the author of Hebrews states, “but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things” (Heb. 1:2). Therefore, **living in light of the end times requires that we look, see, and know the signs.**

CORROBORATING TEXTS

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 6:19-21; 2 Peter 3:11-13; Mark 1:14-15; Revelation 22:7; Hebrews 4:14-16; 1 John 2:28; Philippians 4:6-7; Hebrews 5:7-9

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Prior to Pat’s sermon, have you typically thought that we are living in the end times? Why or why not? What signs are you looking for?
2. How do we carefully observe the world around us, yet not be absorbed or consumed by it?
3. What are you currently living for? Does recognizing that you are living in the end times change your priorities? If so, how?
4. What are some ways that we should live in light of the end times? [*1. Live trusting in God and not succumbing to fear or depression; 2. Live hopefully—God is sovereign and will sustain us; 3. Be resolved to trust God—especially when we don’t understand; 4. Live prayerfully, praying often but not anxiously.*] Which of these ways do you need to grow in?
5. In our present time of confusion, uncertainty, and social distancing due to the coronavirus pandemic, how are you seeking to encourage your family, your neighbors, and others in your sphere of influence?

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6. We should live expecting Jesus' return. Do you typically expect this? Why or why not? Will Jesus' return come as a surprise to you? Will you be prepared?