

THE STORYTELLER

“The Lesson of the Fig Tree”

Pastor Michael Lee

March 21, 2010

Luke 21:25-36 (ESV)

THE RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST AT THE END TIMES (vv. 25-36)

1. _____: Notice the signs that the return of Jesus Christ is approaching (vv. 29-32; 25-27).

- When the trees begin to show tender leaves, you know that summer is approaching. Likewise, when you see the signs (in verses 25-28), you know that the end of time is drawing near.

- You can know the general character of events surrounding Jesus' return even if you cannot know the exact timing. Believers must not make predictions of Jesus' return that are too precise for only God the Father knows (Matthew 24:36).

2. _____: The return of Jesus Christ is evidence that God is fulfilling his promise to redeem the lost. And, this is cause for joy (v. 28, 33).

- The important thing is that believers know that God is keeping His promise and that His Word will not fail (v. 33).

- These immediate signs of his return shows that God is in control—that the apparent chaotic events actually serve as markers that God is fulfilling his plan to save sinners who trust in Jesus.

- The joy experienced in redemption means the end of earthly affliction and the beginning of eternal joy and fellowship with God (Revelation 21:1-4).

- "If we consider the unblushing promises of reward and the staggering nature of the rewards promised in the Gospels, it would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered to us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased."

[C.S. Lewis – “The Weight of Glory”]

3. _____: Prepare for the abundant life to come instead of living only for this world (vv. 34-36; 32).

- To the one who is alert, the day of Christ's return will not come as a sudden, embarrassing surprise because of unpreparedness.

- Christ's return will impact all. No one will escape standing before the Son of Man. All will be subject to him.

THE CALL TO ACTION

Be ready to meet Jesus Christ at all times.

CENTRAL TRUTH

Observe the signs that the return of Jesus is approaching and be ready in joyful expectation.

** LifeGroup Study questions are available for pick up at the Information Center located in the lobby. They are also available online at www.ynccla.org.

** CDs of today's message will be available next Sunday in the YNCC office. Previous weeks' sermon CDs are also available in the office. All sermons are viewable online at www.ynccla.org/sermons.

