



LESSON 140 - MARK 13:28-37

Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is near: So ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, even at the doors.

Verily I say unto you, that this generation shall not pass, till all these things be done.

Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away. But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.

For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.

Here the Lord Jesus followed the information about the conditions on Earth before His second coming with two parables, designed to illustrate what He had just taught. In the parable of the fig tree, Jesus taught that there are certain things which signal a message: leaves coming onto a fig tree mean summer is near. The facts He gave in the preceding verses were "signs" that would herald His coming. All who knew the signs would understand the meaning behind them. Jesus also emphasized that His words would not pass away, that is, everything He said would be fulfilled. We can count on the Word of God. It is true and will come to pass.

"But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is." This is a very interesting verse. It shows that God the Son laid down His powers, authority, and titles, when He came to Earth as Jesus. He truly became a Man, without omniscience and all the other attributes He had had as God the Son. As God in the flesh, but Man in His abilities, Jesus showed us what all of us could be, if we relied on the Holy Spirit to teach and direct us. He did not have special powers (Lk 2:52), but only those that are available to all believers in Christ, if they desired them and would live a holy life of devotion to God the Father by obeying the Holy Spirit, as Jesus did.

This verse clearly shows that Jesus did not know the day and hour of His return, nor did anyone in heaven, except the Father. Why do you think the Father didn't tell Jesus the time of His return? There may have been several reasons, but I think the primary one is that, if Jesus revealed that information to His disciples, they would have been less zealous to carry out the great commission and tell the world of the salvation to be had in Jesus Christ. (Acts 1:7-8)

Sometimes the discussion of end times is troubling to believers. It shouldn't be, because it will be the fulfillment of the Word of God. Several years ago, upon hearing that someone had predicted the end of the world in a few weeks, a student of mine asked me did I believe it? I said no and

that I could promise him at least a thousand and seven years before the world would be destroyed and a new righteous creation put in its place. Before that happens, Jesus must return as King and serve in that capacity on Earth for a thousand years. That is the reference in the Lord's prayer, "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven." (Mt 6:10) The student seemed relieved to hear he needn't worry about the prediction of the destruction of the earth any time soon. If he had been familiar with this verse, "...But of that day and that hour knoweth no man...", he would have known the answer to his question. If the study of the end times and signs of Jesus' coming bothers you, you should analyze why that is so. Are you fearful or worried? Perhaps you need to repent of not allowing Jesus to really be Lord in your life, maybe you need to change your priorities, or begin to learn to trust the Lord more. Ask the Holy Spirit for His help. In the second parable, it states that every person who was a servant of the master was assigned certain authorities, a purpose and work to accomplish, was told to watch, and not to be sleeping when the master returned. Obviously, this had spiritual meaning connected to the signs of Jesus' return, which He had already talked about to His disciples. Every believer has certain authority in his life, a purpose to accomplish, work to do which has been ordained by God, and has been instructed to watch. Three times Jesus' instruction to His disciples and all was "Watch and pray." Those are still instructions for us today. "Watch" what's going on around you. Watch for the signs of His return that the Lord gave in this passage and other scriptures. When you begin to see evidence of them, His return is close. According to heaven's timetable, His return is very soon. Live for Him, so that when you stand before Him, you will not be ashamed of yourself and how you lived.

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