

“The purpose of prophecy is not to entertain the curious, but to encourage the consecrated”

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Sermon # 641

MT 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.

33 "So you also, **when you see all these things, know that it is near--at the doors!**

- **Lu 21:29-31** ¶ Then He spoke to them a parable: "Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. 30 "When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near. 31 "So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near.
- Jesus assured them, when these signs appeared as He foretold (the abomination of desolation, followed by great tribulation, followed by signs in the heavens), His return to the earth would follow.
- **Da 12:11** "And from the time that the daily sacrifice is taken away, and the abomination of desolation is set up, there shall be one thousand two hundred and ninety days." (3 ½ years)

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

- What generation? Well it could not be the disciples generation they saw His resurrection but not His return in power and great glory. It will be the generation that sees the signs beginning with the abomination of desolation.

35 "Heaven and earth will pass away, but **My words will by no means pass away.**

- **Isa 55:10,11** "For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, 11 So shall **My word** be that goes forth from My mouth; It **shall not return to Me void**, But **it shall accomplish** what I please, And **it shall prosper** in the thing for which I sent it.
- His Words are for all generations of mankind;
- **2Ti 3:16** All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,
- **1Co 10:11** Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.
- But again as our title this morning suggests this is written to encourage that generation that shall witness these signs, then knowing the coming of the Lord will be soon. We seem to be able to bear something when we know or can see the light at the end of the tunnel. For us it is to encourage us to be about the Fathers business
- **Joh 9:4** "I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work.

36 "But of that day and hour **no one knows**, not even the angels of heaven, but **My Father only.**

- Here being a dilemma, how can His coming not be known and as we have read in Daniel 12 :11 1,290 days after the abomination of desolation, His coming is known.

37 "But **as the days of Noah** were, so also **will the coming of the Son of Man be**.

38 "For as in the days before the flood, **they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark,**

39 "and **did not know until the flood came** and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

- Here is the point "they" are not looking for Him, the faithful will be, but the world will be as it was in the days of Noah, status quo, they were not looking for Him! Then he came suddenly.

40 "Then two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left.

41 "Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left.

- **Lu 17:36,37** "Two men will be in the field: the one will be taken and the other left." 37 And they answered and said to Him, "**Where, Lord?**" So He said to them, "**Wherever the body is, there the eagles will be gathered together.**"
- Taken here means in judgment, the massive loss of life during the tribulation and the battle of Armageddon.

42 "**Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.**

- **1Th 4:16-18** For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.
- Jesus has now changed His focus to them and to us, for truly we do not know when He shall call for us and every generation must WATCH! For Him, for He is coming for us.!

43 "But know this, that **if the master of the house had known** what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into.

44 "**Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.**

- Again the dilemma is His second coming known or unknown? The dilemma is resolved by seeing that there are actually two second comings. One is in the air, for the church – commonly known as the rapture. 1Th 4:13-18 The other is to the earth, coming with the church, commonly known as the Second Coming of Jesus. You see we refer to the return of the Lord for the Church as the Rapture because as we have read Christ will not set foot upon the earth; **1Th 4:17** Then we who are alive and remain shall be **caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air**. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.
- But upon His second return, remember that His first return was His incarnation his birth, He actual sets foot upon the earth more specifically the Mt. of Olives.
- **Ac 1:10,11** And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, 11 who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you

stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, **will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.**"

- **Zec 14:4** And in that day (*His second coming*) His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, From east to west, Making a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north And half of it toward the south.

45 **"Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season?"**

- Prayerfully you and I will hear those words if we are watching for Him and about His business!
- **Mt 25:21** "His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

46 **"Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing.**

47 "Assuredly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all his goods.

48 "But if that evil servant says in his heart, '**My master is delaying his coming,**'

- **2Pe 3:3,4 ¶** knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation."

49 "and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards,

50 **"the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of,**

51 "and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

- Mt. 24:42 **"Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.**