

## Matt. 24:32-35

- I. Command to learn to discern the true markers of the impending Parousia (32-33)
  - A. Learn the lesson/parable/similitude from the fig tree (32a)
  - B. What this lesson is: (32b-33)
    - 1. The reality/illustration of the fig tree (32b-e)
      - a. When the tree shows these signs (32b-c)
        - 1) The branches get tender (32b)
        - 2) The leaves sprout (32c)
      - b. You make this inference (32d-e)
        - 1) Then you know (32d)
        - 2) What you know: That summer is near (32e)
    - 2. The application to the Parousia – in the same way: (33)
      - a. When you see all these things (33a)
        - “All these things” is not just the signs of 29-31
        - By that time the end is already, not just at the door
        - It is all the things from Jesus’ day
      - b. You should make this inference (33b-c)
        - 1) In the same way you are knowing (33b)
        - 2) What you know: That it is imminent – near upon the door (33c)
          - Immanent, not in the sense that it will happen within so many days, but in the sense that it is next.
- II. The implications: the truth and trustworthiness of Jesus’ warning/prediction (34-35)
  - A. The certainty of the timing (34)
    - 1. Jesus’ emphasis formula – truly I am saying to you (34a)
    - 2. The content that is said: (34b-c)
      - a. This generation will certainly not pass away (34b)
        - What is the referent of “this generation?”
        - The generation of Jesus time?
          - True for the destruction of the temple, but not Parousia
          - Generation = “race” i.e. Jewish race?
            - True, but unusual meaning of the word generation
          - The generation that starts to see these signs?
            - Makes sense in context, but awkward connection to following phrase
        - b. Timing: until all these things come to pass/exist/start (34c)
          - What is the referent of “these things”
          - Signs of the Parousia?
            - Difficulty with relationship of generation to Jesus’ time
          - Parousia itself?
            - Makes sense in context
    - B. The certainty of the prediction (35)
      - 1. Heaven and Earth will pass away (35a)
      - 2. But Jesus’ words will certainly not pass away (35b)