

LOOKING FOR THE FIG TREE
LUKE 21:25-36

²⁵ “And there will be signs in the sun and moon and stars,^[a] and on the earth nations will be in distress, anxious over the roaring of the sea and the surging waves. ²⁶ People will be fainting from fear and from the expectation of what is coming on the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see the Son of Man arriving in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ But when these things begin to happen, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹ Then^[b] he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the other trees, ³⁰ When they sprout leaves, you see for yourselves and know that summer is now near. ³¹ So also you, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² I tell you the truth, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

³⁴ “But be on your guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day close down upon you suddenly like a trap. ³⁵ For it will overtake all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ But stay alert at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that must happen, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

DISCUSS

1. What are some of the signs that Jesus describes in Luke 21:25-27 that will precede His return?

How can we distinguish between the fear that comes from these signs and the hope that we are called to have as followers of Christ?

2. Jesus uses the fig tree as a metaphor to teach us about recognising the signs of the times (Luke 21:29-31).

What are some of the "signs" in the world today that remind you that the Kingdom of God is near?

How can we be careful not to over-interpret or panic about these signs, but instead live with hopeful anticipation?

3. In Luke 21:34-36, Jesus warns about the dangers of being weighed down by distractions like carousing, drunkenness, and the anxieties of life.

What are some of the distractions or concerns in your life that might hinder your spiritual readiness?

What practical steps can you take to remain spiritually alert and prepared for Christ's return in the midst of daily life?

4. Jesus encourages us to live in expectation of His return (Luke 21:29-31). How does living in eager anticipation of Christ's return change the way we approach our daily decisions, relationships, and priorities?

How can we balance this anticipation with the need to be engaged in the world and its needs?

5. Jesus emphasises the importance of prayer in preparing for His return (Luke 21:36). In what ways can prayer help us stay spiritually alert and faithful as we wait for Christ's coming?

How can we make prayer a more consistent and active part of our lives to help us navigate the challenges of the times we live in?