



Introduction: What _____ do you look for to see our seasonal changes in north Idaho? Let me share three that I look for when thinking of Spring:

I. Something to _____ – Matthew 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.”

I want you to underline the word “_____”.

Remember, we never _____ learning, and when we come to church, we should come to learn. This is not a time to park our brains at the door.

Howard Henricks used to say, “The shortest _____ is longer than the longest memory.”

The Greek word for “*learn*” denotes disciplined _____—intentional, thoughtful learning.

Jesus said, *“Now learn this parable.”*

What Is a Parable?

Next, Jesus said, *“Now learn this parable from the fig tree:”*

Why the _____ tree? Well, fig trees were common in Israel.

Jesus went on to say, *“When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near.”*

The point is clear – _____ signs reveal approaching seasons.

In the parallel passage in Luke 21:29–30 the image is expanded. We read, ²⁹ *Then He spoke to them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. ³⁰When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near.*

Notice that *“all the _____”* are added in the parallel passage. Well, even today, you and I can tell changing seasons by looking at the trees here in North Idaho. And so, it was true with Jesus’ disciples.

Is the Fig Tree Israel?

II. Something to _____ – Matthew 24:33

“So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors!”

Look at the words, *“see all these things.”* Those words refer to everything Jesus described in verses 4–31, which are:

Over in the parallel passage found in Mark 13:29, we read, *“When you see these things _____...”*

The word *“happening”* means unfolding _____ —developing realities.

And in Luke 21:28, we read, *“When these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near.”*

The word *“redemption”* refers to final _____.

The words *“it is near”* indicate immediate _____.

James echoes the same imagery. He wrote, “Behold, the Judge is standing at the door!” (James 5:9)

Warren Wiersbe, wrote, “These signs are not hidden but overt, compelling recognition that Christ’s _____ stands at the threshold.” (*Be Loyal*, p. 112)

III. Something to _____ – Matthew 24:34

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

The words “Assuredly, I say to you” can also be read, “_____, I say to you,” which is a divine affirmation. When Jesus says “Amen,” the matter is settled (so be it). Jesus only speaks the truth.

The point is that Jesus Christ speaks _____!

This Generation - Here are the top three:

1. “*This generation*” – **The Generation who _____ Jesus speak** (Preterist View).
2. “*This generation*” – **The Generation that _____ the Signs begin.**
3. “*This generation*” – **The _____ Race.**

The Greek word “*generation*” is *genea*, and it can occasionally carry the sense of “_____” or “people group.”

So, which view is correct? I believe that the safest conclusion in context is this: Once the _____ sequence begins, it will unfold completely within that generation – the generation that sees the signs.

IV. Something to _____ – Matthew 24:35

“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.”

Read: 2 Peter 3:10-11 (See screen)

Yes, the heavens and the earth will pass away, but notice the second part of verse 35, *“But My words will by no means pass away.”*

What we learn here is that God’s _____ is eternal! Additional Scripture:

Matthew Henry wrote, “Christ places His words above the _____, affirming their eternal, infallible authority.”

Billy Graham and God’s Word

Conclusion: This passage of Scripture has provided us with a four-fold challenge:

- _____ – Be teachable (v. 32).
- **See** – Be discerning (v. 33).
- _____ – Be confident (v. 34)
- **Believe** – Be anchored in truth (v. 35).

Never stop _____. Be aware of what is _____ today. Be confident that God will carry out His redemptive plan for humanity, down to the very last _____. And above all, BELIEVE God’s Word. Anchor yourself to Scripture. It will outlast everything else.