

Monday

## Fig Trees and Final Days

**Today's Scripture** Mark 13:28-37

The compendium of “end of the world predictions” seems to regularly garner a new installment. As recently as September 23, 2017, the world was to have been met with a “sign” of destruction if not destruction itself. If it's possible to find any nobility in these predictions, it may be housed in the thought that these fallible prognosticators believe in the end of the world, and the need for warning. Sadly, their certainties are wrapped in concepts and not the confidence of scripture.

Mark's 13th chapter seems to zero in on the conversation surrounding the predicted destruction of Jerusalem, the signs of the return of the Son of God, and man's inability to predict with certainty the day and hour of the latter. Concerning the desolation of Jerusalem, the Lord wanted to be certain that others could see and know the signs of these events, and be ready. By illustration, a fig tree is used to make a point (mind you, the is not the first time our Lord used a fig tree, see Mark 11:12-14, 20-26). Just as the leaves of a fig tree point to the coming of summer, so too would “these things” point to the need for a generation to make ready, a tribulation.

His transition is clear from the “signs of summer” to the “single day” of the Lord's return: no one knows (Mark 13:32), but the Father only. While we confirm this truth, “no man knows,” Christians should conform their lives to the anticipation of the Lord's return. Our words, actions, and lives may be the only signs others see in order to ready themselves for the Lord's return. Christians should make every insistence that they choose to live in holy anticipation for their Master's return. Long after the empty cry of “wolf” has echoed through the air, the righteous conviction of the Christian life lived in authenticity will still be heard.

**Today, I will...**examine my life to live in authentic anticipation of the Lord's return.