

The Budding of the Fig Tree

by Charles E. Fuller

The sermon explores the significance of the budding of the fig tree as a sign of the end times and the regrafting of Israel into God's plan.

Duration: 42:17

Scripture: Jeremiah 31:35, Matthew 24:32

Topics: "Bearing Fruit"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher begins by inviting the audience to raise their hands and sing a joyful song. He then asks if their names are written in the Lamb's book of life, emphasizing the importance of having a relationship with Christ. The preacher urges those who are not saved to come to Jesus for forgiveness and salvation. He concludes the sermon with a prayer for the listeners and a blessing. The sermon also briefly mentions biblical references such as the sons of God, the return of Christ, and the preaching of the gospel.

Transcript

We have heard it's a joyful sound, Jesus saves, Jesus saves. Friends of kind all around, Jesus saves, Jesus saves. Free in Cooperation with Fuller Seminary proudly presents the Old Fashioned Revival Hour, a broadcast of the Gospel with Dr. Charles Eagle.

Jesus saves. There is meaning up in heaven, where the angels sing. Words we have done, we have made.

No more need fear and no more need judging, no more need pride controlling my life. I may be free from all condemnation, I can have victory now and then. I take the life of Jesus, he sets me free.

I take the gift of victory. There is a place, praise God, I have found it. Free from defeat with power surrounded, yes, there is victory, Jesus in me.

I take the life of victory, not I but Christ himself in me. He conquers now, he sets me free. I take the gift of victory.

Before we bow in prayer, I want to ask you this question. Is your name written down in the Lamb's book of life? Thank God if it is, but if it isn't, you're without hope, without Christ and without God, a lost soul. My earnest prayer is today that you may be washed in the precious blood of Christ and be loosed from your

sins and become a new creation in him.

You know, we love him, that is those who are new creations. We love him because he first loved us, that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. As we bow in prayer in a moment, those of you in this visible audience outside of Christ and those listening in, will you not give your hearts to Christ? Let's bow in prayer and every believer pray.

Our Father, we thank Thee, that Thou didst so love the world, that Thou didst give thine only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life. And we thank Thee that Thou art not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. And him that cometh unto Thee, Thou hast said, Thou will in no wise cast out.

Father, we pray now that the Holy Spirit may point thousands to the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sins of the world. And many experience right now in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, the great miracle of regeneration passing from death unto life and becoming new creation through Christ. Make this broadcast, make it a blessing the world over in these trying, difficult, fearful, perilous times.

And may many be saved, for we ask it in Christ's name. Amen. The shining world is splendid of Thy light.

Thy love divine hath led us in the past. In every land, by Thee, our love is cast. Give now our ruler, guardian, guide, and say, Repress their evil on their path and way.

Lead on from night to never. Save me, dear. Open the way.

You're listening to the Old-Fashioned Revival Hour from the Municipal Auditorium at Long Beach, California. Charles E. Bullard speaking. O Master, let me teach men to guide them in, in hope that sends a shining ray.

Far down the future's roaming way, in peace that only Thou canst give. With Thee, O Master, let me live. Take your Bibles and quickly open to the 24th chapter of Matthew, speaking on the budding of the fig tree.

Next Lord's Day, if ye tarry, speaking on perilous times, you should be warned. And the Bible says to warn and to rebuke with all longsuffering. You should know what God's word has to say regarding these closing days and their characteristics, and be ready for the Lord's return.

24th of Matthew, this Olivet Discourse. A great prophecy was spoken by the Lord just before Calvary in answer to three questions propounded by His disciples. And this discourse sets forth the general characteristics of the days between the cross and the Lord's second coming.

In the sixth verse, He speaks of wars and rumors of war. And the word rumors carries with it great discussion. In other words, there'll be a great discussion of war.

Have you ever heard so many discussions concerning war as you have in the past month? Think it over. This sets forth the thought of intense discussions of war. Truly, these are the days of intensified discussions of the possibilities of war.

Then in Matthew 24, 7, when nation begins to rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom, coupled with famines, pestilences, and earthquakes, that is when the global aspect of war rises with an increase of famines, then bear in mind all these are the beginning of sorrow. And anybody that has the nerve to teach

that the world is getting better and the onward and upward progress of man is simply blinded. I'll just give it to you straight.

I'm an old-fashioned, long-haired preacher, even though I had my hair cut short. When these begin to come to pass, then the following events, according to Matthew 24, will come to pass with great rapidity. I'm not saying when.

The abomination of desolation, verse 15. The worldwide preaching of the gospel of the kingdom. The great tribulation of verse 21, for then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time known or ever shall be.

The sudden appearance of many false prophets, verse 24. And then, verse 27 and on, the Son of Man returning from heaven in power and great glory, and every eye shall see Him. Then, according to verse 32, now learn the parable of the fig tree.

The Lord sets forth a parable, an illustration, an illustration which gives us a marker a guidepost, a sign to tell us just exactly where we are in God's plans and dealings with this sin-cursed earth and the nations which have forgotten God. Let me read it to you. These are solemn days.

Now learn the parable of the fig tree. When his branch is yet tender and put as forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh. So likewise, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near even at the door.

Unfortunately, the word it should be translated he in the Revised. Know that he is near even at the door, that is, in his return. Verily I say unto you, this generation shall not pass till all things be fulfilled.

Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my word shall not pass away. But of that day and hour knoweth no man, and anybody that sets dates is untrustworthy. No, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

And we'll speak upon the balance of those verses as the days of Noah and the days of next Lord's day, Lord willing. Now here we have the budding of the fig tree. And in this connection, I'm giving it to you slowly with much emphasis because I want it to be driven home.

We make a very broad statement in connection with verse 32 of Matthew 24 that this budding of the fig tree refers to God's dealings with one race, one people, one nation. That is, the twelve tribes of Israel, the natural descendants of Jacob. Not the Anglo-Saxon, not the Christian Church, not Great Britain, not United States, but simply and exclusively the natural descendants of one man, Jacob, whom God called Israel, according to 2 Kings 17.34. The descendants of the twelve sons of Jacob called Israel have been chosen or elected by God for a specific purpose, as a channel through which God might plan to bless the world and to recover the human race from the effects of the fall and to fill the earth with His glory.

Now, in order that this great and mighty nation may fulfill its high and glorious destiny, Jehovah God gave a grant of land to Abraham and to his seed forever, secured by a perpetual covenant for an everlasting possession. For we read in Genesis 17, 7 and 8, as follows, I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant to be a God unto thee and to thy seed after thee. And I will give unto thee and thy seed after thee all the land of Canaan for an everlasting possession and I will be their God.

God says that. That settles it. Furthermore, take your Bibles now and turn to Jeremiah 31.

Please, I want you to see this in God's own Word. I'm not giving you the speculations or imaginations of men, but I'm giving you thus saith the Lord. Jeremiah 31, 35 to 37.

Thus saith the Lord, which giveth the sun for a light by day and the ordinance of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divides the sea when the waves thereof roar, the Lord of hosts is his name. Now notice, if those ordinances depart from before me, saith the Lord, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me forever. Thus saith the Lord, if heaven above can be measured and the foundations of earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith the Lord.

Now wait. Israel's preservation throughout the ages as a distinct people is guaranteed in the simplest, clearest, strongest language as I have just read to you in Jeremiah 31, 35 to 37. Now furthermore, according to Matthew 24, 34, this generation, verily I say unto you, this generation, race, people, nation shall not pass, and the literal translation is, by no means shall all these things be fulfilled.

And I say to you that the great miracle of ages is that God, through all of the wars and persecutions and killings and scatterings, has preserved Israel, distinct yet scattered among the nations. And in Deuteronomy 28, a long chapter by the way, 68 verses in length, we find two mountain peaks of teaching that though the land of Canaan was given to Abraham and his seed forever, listen, the enjoyment or actual possession of that land depended upon Israel's obedience to God's laws or commandments. Is that clear? You may be saved, and the enjoyment of your salvation depends upon your confession of sin and obedience to God's word and to walk in the light.

Same principle applies. And so we read in the 28th of Deuteronomy, It shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth, and all these blessings shall come on thee and overtake thee if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God. Then follows a list of blessings.

Thou shalt be blessed in the field, the fruit of thy body and the fruit of the ground. The Lord shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face. And that little nation surrounded by great, powerful nations, as long as Israel was obedient, she was more than conquerors over against the onrush of the enemy.

But notice the 15th verse of the 28th of Deuteronomy. But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day, that all these curses shall come upon thee and overtake thee. Cursed shall be thy city.

Cursed shall be thy field, the fruit of thy body. And the Lord shall send the cursing, vexation and rebuke. And notice the 23rd verse.

And the heaven that is over thy head shall be brass, and the earth that is under thee shall be iron. The Lord shall make the rain of thy land powder and dust. From heaven it shall come down upon thee until all be destroyed.

And one of the miracles is, for nearly two thousand years, the land of Cana has been almost drought-stricken until recently. And the average rainfall recently has increased from three or four inches

per year up to over twenty. One of the signs.

But now notice. Go on and read the balance of that chapter. And then the 63rd verse of that chapter.

And it shall come to pass that as the Lord rejoiced over you to do good, and to multiply you, so the Lord will rejoice over you to destroy you and to bring you to naught. And you shall be plucked up from off the land whether thou goest to possess it. And the Lord shall scatter thee among all people from one end of the earth even unto the other.

And there thou shalt serve other gods which neither thou nor thy fathers have known. And among these nations thou shalt find no ease, neither shall the sole of thy foot have rest. But the Lord shall give thee there a trembling heart and a failing of eyes and sorrow of mind.

Thus saith the Lord." Now notice. Israel, instead of being obedient, nation became disobedient, stiff-necked, a rebellious people. And the cursings of Deuteronomy 28, 15 to the end of the chapter have been and are being fulfilled.

Their disobedience or disobedient heart has led them over the centuries to do three things. First, to become an idolatrous nation. Second, to reject God's Son, for He came unto His own and His own received Him not.

And third, according to the book of Acts, especially from the seventeenth chapter on, their forbidding of the gospel of grace going to the Gentiles. And so in the last chapter of Acts, the Holy Spirit sums it up as follows. For the heart of this people, Israel, is waxed gross and their ears are dull of hearing and their eyes have they closed lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and should be converted and I should heal them.

Be it known therefore unto you that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles and they will hear it. And so Olive Branch, Israel, was broken off and the wild Olive Branch, contrary to nature, was grafted in. And I say to you on the authority of God's Word that the times of the Gentiles are about fulfilled, run its course and that breaking off of the wild Olive Branch may occur at any moment and Israel regrafted.

Read the eleventh of Romans. Now for nearly two thousand years this people, Israel, has been scattered among the nations of earth but wait! We're on holy ground. In May 1948, three years ago, an event took place, an event which hardly caused a ripple upon the muddy waters of this old world.

Yet in the eyes of God, in the eyes of His blood bought ones who have the prophetic word as a lamp that shines in a dark place, is an event of eternal importance. For in May 1948, Israel, after two thousand years of wandering, no rest for the sole of her feet and according to Hosea 3, abiding many days without a king, without a prince, without an effort, they will begin to return. They began to return really before May 1948.

Since 1948, the acceleration has been tremendous. But in May 1948, listen to me, Israel was granted a place among the United Nations as a nation among nations for the first time in two thousand years. And I say to you with all the conviction of my heart, beloved, this is the budding of the fig tree.

I believe it. Follow me. Two thousand years ago or thereabouts, some wise men came from the east and they said to the Pharisees and to the Israelites of that day, where is he that is born King of the Jews? We've seen his stars.

But follow, the religious leaders of that day from the pages of the Old Testament went back into a prophecy and said why he'll be born in Bethlehem of Judea. Did it cause a ripple or a change of heart on the part of the religious leaders of those days? No. Herod was the only one that seemed to be troubled for he reasoned within himself that if there is to be a new King of the Jews, I will cause all the male children up to a certain age to be slain.

To prevent anyone taking the throne from under me. Now wait. Did the budding of the fig tree in May 1948 cause a ripple? No.

But I say to you, as it was in the days of Jesus' birth, we're now seeing right before our very eyes the budding of the fig tree. And I tell you that when the fig tree begins to bud, fruit appears, things come to pass with great rapidity. And I say on the authority of God's Word, Matthew 24, that the beginning of sorrows will come to pass with great rapidity.

You may not agree with me. I love you just the same. Listen.

Nations feverishly preparing for war, the beating of pruning hooks into spears, plowshares into swords, rumors of wars, discussion of wars on all sides, nations confederating for mutual protection, men's hearts failing with fear. And I begin to see now how the woes and judgments of Revelation 6 to 19, so vividly set forth there, can truly and literally come to pass. So I close the broadcast and I say to you, Thou that sleepest, the day of your redemption draweth nigh.

The night is far spent. The day of Christ is at hand. Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness.

Let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk honestly as in the days, not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envy, but put ye on the Lord Jesus, walking in the light, as He is in the light. For behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God.

Beloved, it doth not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when He shall appear, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. Friend outside of Christ, the time is short. God is not willing that you should perish.

Are you tired and sick of wondering about no rest, no peace, no place of refuge, no shepherd to guide you? I say to you, come to the fountain for cleansing. Come to the shepherd of your eternal soul. He awaits your decision now.

Will you say to Him, I receive Christ as my personal Savior. Let's bow our heads in prayer. How about it, friends outside of Christ in the radio audience? This is Charles E. Fuller bidding you goodbye and God's richest blessing upon you.

God bless you.

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