The Parable of the Fig Tree

Matt. 24:32

Introduction:

A. “The Bible says before the end of time you can’t tell summer from winter except for budding of leaves.”
   1. A good example of misquoted and misapplied Scripture.
   2. A good example of careless reading (Read verses 32, 33 carefully).
B. “Bible says that just before the end of time there will be wars and rumors of wars.”
   1. Does verse 6 refer to signs immediately before the end of time?
   2. Or Does verse 6 refer to signs immediately before the end of something else?
C. Matthew 24 deals to with two questions — not just one:

Discussion:

I. Question One: “When Shall These Things Be?” — Answered vv. 4-35.
   A. Jesus gave conditions to look for before destruction of the temple (vv. 1, 2).
      1. Physical conditions (vv. 6-8).
      2. Spiritual conditions.
         a. Deception (vv. 5, 11).
         b. Persecution (v. 9).
         c. Apostasy (vv.10, 12).
         d. World evangelism (v. 14; Col. 1:6,23).
   B. Jesus gave instructions that could not apply to the second coming.
      1. Flee to mountains (v. 16).
      2. Flee in haste, pray for no hindrance (vv. 17-22).
      3. Believe no false reports about the Christ (vv. 23-28).
   C. Jesus gave assurance that this would be fulfilled in that generation (vv. 29-34).

II. Question Two: “What Shall be Sign of Your Coming... End of Age (World)?” — Answered vv. 36ff)
   A. Second coming unannounced — no signs (vv. 36-44),
   B. Second coming must be constantly prepared for.
      1. Parable of evil servant (24: 44-51).
   C. Second coming will bring final judgment (25:31-46).

Conclusion:

A. Two questions and answers must be considered separately.
   1. 1st could hardly refer to the second coming.
   2. 2nd could only refer to second coming.
B. The second answer is important to us today. Are we prepared?