

"Paying Attention 101: The Learning Tree"

by Rev. John C. Tittle

Scripture Reading: Mark 13: 28-31 NRSV

²⁸ "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Discussion Questions:

1. What jumps out at this passage?
2. What is your favorite kind of tree? What's interesting about trees to you?
3. Why do you think Jesus chose a fig tree to teach a lesson?
4. What does it mean to pay attention?
5. How do you go about making decisions?
6. Do you think Jesus was talking about the destruction of the temple or the end of the world or both in this passage?
7. Do you feel closer to God or further from God when things are going difficult?
8. How might you know that a season is ending? A new one beginning?
9. What do you think are some idols in our society today?
10. How do these words of Jesus comfort you, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."