

Elizabeth Dixon

Professor Notley

Parables

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Week 6- Attendance Summary

This week we looked at the topic of hope within Jesus' parables. We looked at the lesson of the fig tree, and how hope is the central theme of this parable. It's interesting to know that the fig trees in Israel differ from the one's in America, because the fig trees in Israel put forth its fruit first before the leaves come out. Luke's parable of the fig tree was noted to represent Jesus' words in a much clearer way because it's closer to the original saying of Jesus. The fig is a symbol for Jerusalem, and the lack of fruit on a fig tree represents unrepentance.

We took a look at the Olivet discourse, and how the destruction of the temple correlated with the end times, and with there being a false hope of redemption, and how Jesus told the people who asked when would they know that the time is near, Jesus warns them that many will come in His name, and that there would be people who don't believe that God could ever destroy the temple, but then also rebuild it in the matter of a few days. They'd soon come to find out that Jesus was talking about himself here, how He was the temple in this metaphor being spoken about. It wasn't some building of a temple, it was Him in the flesh and blood.

Looked at this parable from Avot R. Nathan which similarly to the barren tree parable in Luke 13 talked about the idea of a tree that is not producing harvest, and giving it some time to grow, and if no fruit bears, then it should be cut down.

