

# Grace Notes

## Lessons from a Fig Tree

6.01.10



***"Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door. "***  
***(Matthew 24:32-33)***

The Fox News article was entitled, "Where's Jimmy? Just Google His Bar Code". The picture below is from the article & is an actual photo of imbedded microchips. Here's a quick excerpt:

*Scientists tag animals to monitor their behavior and keep track of endangered species. Now some futurists are asking whether all of mankind should be tagged too. Looking for a loved one? Just Google his microchip. The chips, called radio frequency identification (RFID) tags, emit a simple radio signal akin to a bar code, anywhere, anytime. Futurists say they can be easily implanted under the skin on a person's arm.*

I'm not a "scare people into heaven" type of guy. But, as I read this article (5/14/2010), I couldn't help but think about Jesus' words to His disciples in Matthew 24 (cited above). Jesus was in the middle of a lengthy response to His disciples' questions about events leading to the end of the world.

Satan is brilliant. The imbedded chips are touted as an invention designed to help & protect humanity. So who *wouldn't* want one?



*Already, the government of Mexico has surgically implanted the chips, the size of a grain of rice, in the upper arms of staff at the attorney general's office in Mexico City. The chips contain codes that, when read by scanners, allow access to a secure building, and prevent trespassing by drug lords. ...Having one in every person could relieve anxiety for parents and help save lives,...*

Surprisingly, there is not a single reference to the obvious theological thought: "the mark of the beast" so clearly described in the latter chapters of the book of *Revelation* (see 13:16-18). Instead, the only objections—and they are good ones to be sure—are issues of personal privacy. The ACLU describes the process as a "24/7 surveillance society." Indeed.

This is simply another reminder that, as believers, we would be wise to "learn this lesson from the fig tree," understanding that we are living in the last days. "You too, be patient and stand firm," James wrote, "because the Lord's coming is near.... The Judge is standing at the door!" (James 5:8-9)



**Soli Deo Gloria, Nick**