

SERMON: When Will Jesus Return?

November 26, 2017

SERIES: The Gospel of Mark

SPEAKER: Pastor Mark

CONNECT (5-10 minutes): Help the members of the group grow in relationships with one another so all people in the group know they matter. Spend some time discovering what is happening in the lives of your group members. Share how God has been revealing himself in each other's lives.

REVIEW (15-20 minutes): Use this time to review the passage and the sermon outline (see below).

Note: this is a great opportunity to share leadership.

Use these simple questions to review the sermon/passage or for if you don't have much time:

1. What does this passage teach you about God? About us?
2. How does this passage point us to the gospel? How does it challenge you? Change you?

SCRIPTURE:

Mark 13

And as he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!" 2 And Jesus said to him, "Do you see these great buildings? There will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down."

3 And as he sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately, 4 "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when all these things are about to be accomplished?" 5 And Jesus began to say to them, "See that no one leads you astray. 6 Many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray. 7 And when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. This must take place, but the end is not yet. 8 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. These are but the beginning of the birth pains.

9 "But be on your guard. For they will deliver you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them. 10 And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations. 11 And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. 12 And brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death. 13 And you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

14 "But when you see the abomination of desolation standing where he ought not to be (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 15 Let the one who is on the housetop not go down, nor enter his house, to take anything out, 16 and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. 17 And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! 18 Pray that it may not happen in winter. 19 For in those days there will be such tribulation as has not been from the beginning of the creation that God created until now, and never will be. 20 And if the Lord had not cut short the days, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect, whom he chose, he shortened the days. 21 And then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Christ!' or 'Look, there he is!' do not believe it. 22 For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect. 23 But be on guard; I have told you all things beforehand.

24 "But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, 25 and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. 26 And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. 27 And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

28 "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out 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 say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

32 "But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. 34 It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. 35 Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning— 36 lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. 37 And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake."

SERMON OUTLINE:

I. The Destruction of Jerusalem (The Temple).

- Much of what Jesus spoke about in Mark 13 was fulfilled with the destruction of the Temple in AD 70.

II. The end of the World and the Return of Jesus.

- Jesus' description of the destruction of the temple was a foreshadowing of the a future tribulation.

- Jesus wants us to live in light of his imminent return.

III. So What?

- We must be spiritually alert and ready.

- We must be mission focused.

- We can have hope in our suffering.

GROW (45-60 minutes): Use this time to go deeper with your group.

Use these questions to discuss the sermon/passage:

Background: Jesus is nearing his death and he has left the Temple grounds. Mark 13 is the conversation that takes place as he and the disciples are leaving the Temple complex, never to return. Herod's Temple in Jerusalem would be destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD. As Jesus describes this event in their near future, it is mixed with descriptions for our future.

1. In verses 3-13 Jesus offers us three encouragements:

- There will be many false messiahs- but don't be deceived (v5-6 and v22).

- There will be wars and natural disasters- but don't be alarmed (v7-8).

- There will be persecutions- but be on guard and don't be anxious (v9-13).

How do these statements by Jesus encourage you to persevere through hard times?

2. Read Mark 13:24-27. As you think about this upcoming Christmas season, how does this description of the Second Coming of Jesus contrast with his first coming? How does this description of his second coming strengthen you? How does it give hope?

3. Jesus wants us to live in light of his imminent return. How would you live differently if you knew Jesus was coming back today? What priorities would change?

4. The truth of Christ's return gives us hope in our suffering. Read Mark 13:8. Our suffering is "birth pains" that will lead to the joy of new life. Think about the suffering you face today- how does the fact that Jesus will return and make everything new give you endurance and hope? What is one specific thing that you are looking forward to Jesus "making new" one day?

5. Do you fear Christ's return? Do you fear his judgment? Why? How does the cross of Jesus remove this fear? (see Hebrews 9:28)