

The End is Coming, Stay Focused and Alert. Mark 12:38-13:37

Mark: The Good News of the Son of God

Sunday: 06/30/24 – Pastor Lenard Tavernelli

‘Remain faithful as we await Christ’s return by staying focused and alert, prepared for suffering and confident in Jesus’ word.

Overview

In this week’s message, Pastor Lenard covered Mark 12:28-13:37. This passage details the time and teachings of Jesus’ last visit to the temple in Jerusalem. We see a warning about self-serving religion and a brief comment about the fall of the temple. This brief comment on stones being thrown down turned into a lengthy teaching from our Lord. Many look to this teaching for end times secrets and miss the message of this passage.

In the warning concerning the scribes, we see that self-serving religion is dangerous because it becomes more about what I can do or what I can give, rather than the Gospel of God doing all the work. This is a religion that misses the point. This is contrasted with the widow, whose selfless offering is all about faith and trust that God will do his work and provide.

In the passage concerning the destruction of the temple and the things to come, we saw that it pointed to a time in the immediate future where there would be suffering. This message from the Lord was a warning to his people, as prophecy further confirmed him as the Christ, showing us and the people of that day that his teachings and promises can be trusted. Jesus closed his teaching with the expectant command for his people to stay awake as we wait for his coming.

Outline

1. Beware of self-serving religion (12:38-44)
2. Be careful how you read scripture (13:1-4)
 - a. Passage Outline:
 - i. Questions regarding the destruction of the temple and the sign (13:1-4)
 - ii. False signs and the true sign of the destruction of the temple (5-23)
 - iii. After the destruction of the temple (24-27)
 - iv. The timing of the destruction of the temple (28-31)
 - v. The return of Christ (32-37)
3. Be prepared for suffering (13:5-13): Romans 16:25-26, 1 Peter 1:5
 - a. 2 Promises:
 - i. The Holy Spirit’s Help (v11)
 - ii. Those who endure will be saved (v13)
4. Be confident in Christ’s Word (13:14-23, 28-31): Daniel 9:26-27
5. Be alert waiting for Jesus’ return (13:24-27, 32-37): Isaiah 13:9-10, 1 Thessalonians 5:5-6

Discussion Questions

1. The widow’s offering is an amazing act of selflessness. Can you share a time when you witnessed or were the recipient of a selfless act that made an impact on you and your faith?
2. Jesus describes a chaotic world (v6-8) and persecution (v9) and gives his people a promise (v11). What does it mean that he who endures to the end will be saved?
 - a. How do these promises encourage you to faithfully proclaim the truth of Jesus and grow mature disciples for the glory of God?
3. In this passage Jesus has shown us that we can be confident in his word. He also commands us to be alert and stay awake.
 - a. From the warnings in the passage what do you need to be cautious about in your life?
 - b. What steps do you need to take to live life in anticipation of Christ’s return?



10 Minute Faith Talk Outline

1. **Gather** your family

2. **Read** Mark 13:32-37

3. **Discuss**

a. What does Jesus compare His coming to?

b. What does it mean to stay awake for the coming of Jesus?

c. What one step could each of us take now to live in a way that is ready for His coming?

4. **Pray**

5. **Sing**- Close by singing the Doxology