

**Who do you say that I am?  
Ready yourself for Christ's Return!  
Mark 13:1-13**

**Mark 13:1-2** “And as he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!” 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.”

**Mark 13:3-4** “And as he sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately, “Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when all these things are about to be accomplished?”

**Matthew 24:3b** “what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?”

**I. Don't be led astray by many false Christs: Know Christ (13:5-6)**

**Mark 13:5-6** “And Jesus began to say to them, “See that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray.”

**1 John 2:18** “Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour.”

**How do you avoid being misled?**

**1 John 4:1** “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.”

**Matthew 7:20** “Thus you will recognize them by their fruits”

“All Muslims regard Jesus as a great prophet. A shared reappraisal of Jesus' message could provide a common ground for urgently needed religious dialogue. This reappraisal of Jesus may be our own way of saving a number of religions, including Christianity.” **Brian McClaren, The Secret Message of Jesus.**

**II. Don't be alarmed by worldly disorder and natural disasters: Trust in God (13:7-8)**

**Mark 13:7-8** “And when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. This must take place, but the end is not yet. 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.”

**Romans 8:22-23** “For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.”

**III. Expect persecution and endure to the end: Proclaim Christ in all situations (13:9-13)**

**Mark 13:9-13** “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. And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations. 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. 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. And you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.”

### **A. Expect to be persecuted (13:9-13)**

**Luke 12:51-53** “Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three. They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

### **B. Depend upon the Holy Spirit to proclaim Christ (13:11)**

### **C. Endure to the end (13:13)**

**Hebrews 9:27-28** “And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.”

**Luke 21:17-19** “You will be hated by all for my name's sake. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your lives.”

**Psalms 25:2** “O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame; do not let me be ashamed; let not my enemies exult over me.”

“The martyrs knew that the fires they endured were nothing like the fires they deserved” **David Platt**

“Suffering is the price of missions and it is going to be paid. Suffering is not an accidental result. The price will be very high. The price is not just the result but the strategy of the purpose.” **John Piper**

## **IV. God will fulfill His mission: Proclaim the gospel to all nations (13:10, Matthew 24:14)**

**Matthew 24:14** “And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”

**Matthew 16:18** “I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it”

“If we are disobedient, it is not ultimately the cause of God and the cause of world missions that will lose—we will lose. God’s counsel will stand and he will accomplish his purpose. His triumph is never in question, only our participation in it or our incalculable loss. We can be drunk with private concerns and indifferent to the great enterprise of world evangelization, but God will simply pass over us and do his great work while we shrivel up in our little land of comfort.” **John Piper**

**Benediction: James 1:12** “Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.”