



Endure to the End

Community Study Guide: **Mark 13:1-23** –Week of April 21th, 2024

Endure to the End by:

1. Worshiping God in Spirit and Truth

After besting all the spiritual elites and denouncing them, Jesus leaves the temple never to return. Ultimately, even though the temple was physically beautiful, the place designed to facilitate the worship of God was found wanting. While the building was ornate and decorated, it was judged to be worthy of destruction. In many ways, the people had taken the place God ordained for worship of Him, and made it into a place that was worshiped. Jesus in John 4 tells us that one of the outcomes He would bring would be a change of worship. It would no longer be confined to a mountain or to a temple. We are now called in Christ to worship God in both Spirit and truth. We are to prioritize loves that places God on the throne, and we are to worship Him alone.

2. Discerning Through Deception

After hearing Jesus tell them about the upcoming destruction of the temple, the disciples ask for more information. When will this take place? What will be the signs? Jesus warns them about many who will come to lead them astray. He tells them that not only will they come falsely in the name of Jesus, but they will do so with signs and wonders. All of this will be done to deceive; to lead people away. For us as Christians, it is vital to be prepared for the deception. We know Satan will be at work, and we must equip ourselves for the battle that is upon us. We must rest in the tension that God has saved us, we are His, and now we must fight to endure until the end.

DISCUSSION GOALS

Head

Jesus makes it clear that following Him will be challenging. On every level in our lives, there is potential for adversity. We are called to stay strong and to endure to the end. We do this by actively pursuing and preparing for what the Lord has called us to, as well as focusing on the eternal hope of victory we are promised.

Heart

The temptation to be discouraged and anxious will always be around us. We to trust in the provision of Christ, and the work of the Holy Spirit, knowing that He can provide all that we need. We are called to trust Him despite our circumstances.

Hands

Prepare your heart and mind for what opposition you might face. Remember to be on guard, to be alert for an deception or distracton. Worship God even in the moments of tribulation.

3. Not Getting Distracted by Turmoil

As Jesus continues to set our expectations as Christians, He warns us to be prepared for turmoil. Christ lists many things that will come to pass. Wars, earthquakes, famine. However, these are simple birth pains. They are trying and difficult times that proceed the great good thing that we look forward to. Once more, this gives us as Christians a calibration for our perspective. The world around us will be unsteady, but if we keep our eyes fixed on eternity, we can endure.

4. Expecting Severe Persecution

The last pillar of warning that Jesus gives is directed toward to disciples themselves; and to us as Christians. Jesus warns them to expect persecution. He tells them that for His name's sake, much hardship will fall upon them. That there will be betrayal, and that the powers of the day will thrust punishment on them. This will go hand in hand with the Gospel being preached to all the nations. Once more Jesus encourages them to endure to the end. For us as Christians, it is wise to adjust our outlook on the world around us. We should remember that friendship with the world is enmity with God, and that love of God will produce hatred from the world. All these things are the birth pains leading to the day that we hope for when we are reunited fully with our Lord.

Read Mark 13:1-23

1. What was significant about scripture recording Jesus' departure from the temple? What did it foreshadow? Why would Jesus' claims in verse 2 have been shocking to the disciples?
2. Consider Verses 5-13. How would you describe the expectations that Christ is giving to His disciples? How has this passage reframed the consequences of following Jesus?
3. **Read Verse 5-6** Jesus warns about not being led astray by those around us. As Christians, how do we best prepare ourselves to resist deception? Where have you found this principle used in your life?
4. **Read Verses 7-8** Here, Jesus warns about being alarmed by events occurring in the environment around us. How does this aspect of His warning apply to us today? How do we apply scripture to this concern?
5. **Read Verses 9-10** Considering these verses, and our present situation, how should we as Christians respond to this warning from Christ? How is it applied to us right now?
6. **Read Verse 11** What encouragement and application can we get from this verse?
7. Pastor Jan exhorted us to endure to the end through three actions and one mindset. Which of these do you find yourself most challenged by? How can your CG help pray for you in this area?