

SERMON NOTES:

Series: Mark -The Simple Gospel | Week 44: It's The End of the World as We Know it (and I feel fine)

The Olivet Discourse covers what William Barclay in his commentary describes as **5 strands**:

- 1) There are prophecies of the destruction of Jerusalem.
- 2) There is a warning of persecution to come.
- 3) There are warnings of the dangers of the last days.
- 4) There are warnings of the second coming.
- 5) There are warnings of the necessity to be on the watch.

Mark 13:1-23 (NLT) *Jesus Speaks about the Future*

¹ As Jesus was leaving the Temple that day, one of his disciples said, "Teacher, look at these magnificent buildings! Look at the impressive stones in the walls."

² Jesus replied, "Yes, look at these great buildings. But they will be completely demolished. Not one stone will be left on top of another!"

³ Later, Jesus sat on the Mount of Olives across the valley from the Temple. Peter, James, John, and Andrew came to him privately and asked him, ⁴ "Tell us, when will all this happen? What sign will show us that these things are about to be fulfilled?"

⁵ Jesus replied, "Don't let anyone mislead you, ⁶ for many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah.' They will deceive many. ⁷ And you will hear of wars and threats of wars, but don't panic. Yes, these things must take place, but the end won't follow immediately. ⁸ Nation will go to war against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in many parts of the world, as well as famines. But this is only the first of the birth pains, with more to come.

⁹ "When these things begin to happen, watch out! You will be handed over to the local councils and beaten in the synagogues. You will stand trial before governors and kings because you are my followers. But this will be your opportunity to tell them about me. ¹⁰ For the Good News must first be preached to all nations. ¹¹ But when you are arrested and stand trial, don't worry in advance about what to say. Just say what God tells you at that time, for it is not you who will be speaking, but the Holy Spirit.

¹² "A brother will betray his brother to death, a father will betray his own child, and children will rebel against their parents and cause them to be killed. ¹³ And everyone will hate you because you are my followers. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

¹⁴ "The day is coming when you will see the sacrilegious object that causes desecration standing where he should not be." (Reader, pay attention!) "Then those in Judea must flee to the hills. ¹⁵ A person out on the deck of a roof must not go down into the house to pack. ¹⁶ A person out in the field must not return even to get a coat. ¹⁷ How terrible it will be for pregnant women and for nursing mothers in those days. ¹⁸ And pray that your flight will not be in winter. ¹⁹ For there will be greater anguish in those days than at any time since God created the world. And it will never be so great again. ²⁰ In fact, unless the Lord shortens that time of calamity, not a single person will survive. But for the sake of his chosen ones he has shortened those days.

²¹ "Then if anyone tells you, 'Look, here is the Messiah,' or 'There he is,' don't believe it. ²² For false messiahs and false prophets will rise up and perform signs and wonders so as to deceive, if possible, even God's chosen ones. ²³ Watch out! I have warned you about this ahead of time!

“The exterior of the building wanted nothing that could astound either mind or eye. For, being covered on all sides with massive plates of gold, the sun was no sooner up than it radiated so fiery a flash that persons straining to look at it were compelled to avert their eyes, as from the solar rays. To approaching strangers it appeared from a distance like a snow-clad mountain; for all that was not overlaid with gold was of purest white.” – Josephus

5 things we can take away from the Olivet Discourse with absolute certainty:

1. A call to watchfulness. (vv. 9,23)

1 John 3:13 (NLT) ¹³So don't be surprised, dear brothers and sisters, if the world hates you.

2. A call to trust. (vv. 7,11)

John 16:33 (NLT) ³³I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.”

3. A call to perseverance. (9,13)

Philippians 3:14 (NLT)

¹⁴I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.

2 Timothy 3:12 (NLT)

¹²Yes, and everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

4. A call to faithfulness. (v. 5)

R. Kent Hughes, *“Jesus was not interested in giving date-setting details, but in encouraging his own to be steadfast and faithful until he returns. Jesus spoke pastorally.”*

2 Thessalonians 2:15 (NLT)

¹⁵With all these things in mind, dear brothers and sisters, stand firm and keep a strong grip on the teaching we passed on to you both in person and by letter.

5. A call to action. (vv.9b-10)

Mark L. Strauss: *“The church's role is to proclaim the gospel, not to speculate about the end.”*

Acts 1:8 (NLT)

⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”