

*Mark: Come Follow Me*

Mark 13.24-37

October 23, 2022

This is our second Sunday exploring Mark 13. Again, to get into it requires putting on your thinking cap. Like usual, this guide is an aide to help you get into the text, so tackle the questions *as you are able and have time*. You do not need to answer each one, so don't look at this sheet as an onerous homework assignment you'd rather not do. Just enjoy your time in the Scriptures.

Pastor Eric

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Has our first week in Mark 13 drawn you into it, or honestly, would you rather we move along? Second: When it comes to the "end times," what is your general understanding of what will happen?

Again, the best way to approach our passage is to read all of **Mark 13**. If you can't make the time to read the whole chapter, just read verses 24-37.

Begin by summarizing the first 23 verses. Overall, what has Jesus said so far? What were the two questions that got Jesus going into his monologue?

Do you see a shift in emphasis or focus from the first section, or do you think Jesus is just continuing on the same thread of thought? What might indicate that he's changing gears in verse 24? What does Jesus mean when he refers to "tribulation?" What is the event he's describing? How is it that the event can happen "in those days" yet after that tribulation?

Imagine seeing what Jesus describes in verses 24-27. What are you seeing? Look at 1 Thessalonians 4.16-17 and notice overlaps in language and terminology. Does it appear that both passages are referring to the same event? Who are the elect Jesus is gathering? What do you think he's gathering them for?

Read the two parables that come next in verses 28-37. What are they about? What's the point of the first parable (verses 28-31)? What about the second (verses 32-37)? Do they seem to you to fit together easily, or do they appear to you to contradict one another?

Does it surprise you that Jesus said even he doesn't know the timing of his return (verse 31)? Do you think he means just that? But how can Jesus, as God himself, not know?

During the sermon, I proposed that the first parable goes with the first section of Jesus' monologue in verses 5-23. Thus, it's a parable about being prepared for the destruction of the temple. The second parable concerns itself with being prepared for the return of Jesus, so it complements Jesus' prediction of his return in verses 24-27. How does that strike you?

Why do you think so many Christians are relatively lukewarm about the second coming of Jesus?

“What He did for me seems to be more important than what He is to me.”

“Christians are so comfortable in this world that they have little desire to leave it.”

AW Tozer, *Born After Midnight*

Reflect on Tozer’s two reasons that Christians don’t seem to care so much about the return of Jesus. Do you think he’s right?

What does Jesus’ very precise prediction about the temple’s destruction say to you about his promised return?

*Heaven & earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.*

Jesus. Mark 13.31

What’s the lesson we’re supposed to gain about the return of Jesus? If no one knows when it’s going to happen, what are we supposed to do about it?

The action items here emerge from the second parable. Who is represented by the man who leaves home? What’s the doorkeeper’s job? Three times he’s told to stay awake. Apparently, the worse thing he can do is fall asleep. How do we remain awake in anticipation of Jesus’ return? Reflect on Tozer’s statement:

“We must love someone very much to stay awake and long his coming.”

AW Tozer, *Born After Midnight*

What did you learn about Jesus? How should you respond to what you learned about Jesus?