

May 12, 2019 – Elmont Baptist Church

Message Series: The Gospel of Mark

Week 44: “...Be on Your Guard...”

Text: Mark 13:1-37

We’re unpacking and understanding the Book of Mark. The Gospel writer’s audience are Roman believers and he really focuses on presenting Jesus as the Messiah King and Suffering Servant. He works to answer three questions “who is Jesus?”, “what did Jesus come to do?”, and “what does Jesus expect of you?”

We’re dealing with the events and teachings in the last week of Jesus’ life before the crucifixion and resurrection as the Gospel writer spends much of his time covering these final days of Jesus leading up to the cross.

Today’s text is one that we could do all kinds of fun things with. It’s a passage about the coming destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 and the eventual return of Jesus. This lengthy teaching of Jesus has a focus though, and it’s not about giving a precise timeline or naming the Anti-Christ, but it’s about warning His disciples of what is coming and instructing them on how to live in the midst of terrible times that they will face.

Let’s READ our TEXT

We want to pick up the teaching of Jesus in this passage to truly understand that...

***When we know and obey the Truth of the Scriptures,
our hearts are steadied in Christ and our lives make much of Him.***

We, like the disciples want to know the “who?” and “when?” of the end times, but Jesus’ doesn’t see that as the most helpful truth to share. As Dan Doriani says, “Jesus gave relatively little attention to the question ‘When?’ and much toward the question ‘How shall we live faithfully?’”

We Know...

✓ **Jesus will Come Again – v 26**

- To gather the saints – v 27 (Hebrews 9:26-27)
- To judge the world – Acts 17:30-31; Rev 19:11

There’s a lot we do not know about how and when the end times will go down. And there are a lot of great theologians and pastors that differ on their understanding that beliefs about those events. The main thing that we need to know is that Jesus is coming again and He has already won the battle against sin and death. When He comes again He will gather His Bride, the Church, to Himself for all eternity.

In His first coming He came not to judge the world but to save it. In His second coming, He will not come to save the world, but to judge it.

These things should encourage those who are not sure if they belong to Christ to come to Him and be encouraging to believers and challenge us to love and pursue Christ as He help us see in this teaching...

✓ **How We Should Live**

- The Do Not’s
 - Do not be lead astray – not so much “know what you believe” but rather “know the Truth of the Scriptures and change your beliefs as needed. So many of our “beliefs” are informed by our feelings or desires rather than a constant never changing source of Truth.

- Do not be alarmed – By the state of the fallen world. Sin has wrecked things and that will not stop. Our job is to push back the darkness of sin, but most of the church is diving into sin or distracted by less than God's best
- Do not be anxious – By the suffering of the saints. The more this happens the more the church flourishes. Do not think that we are exempt from actual persecution.
- The Do's
 - Be on your guard – Be doing what you should be doing.
 - Stay awake – We get lulled to sleep by sin and distractions all around us that keep us from doing the things we were re-created in Christ to do. Primarily love God most and love people well. We look up and cannot understand or figure out how we got to where we are. We have or had great intentions, but look up and there are no real results or growth.

There's an encouragement and a warning in this passage in the statement. "...the one who endures to the end will be saved." How you finish matters. Where you end up in loving God and loving people matters. Being on your guard and staying awake until your last breath matters. Are you saved by good works? NO WAY! Are you saved for good works? YOU BET! And those are enabled by a great measure of grace from a God that loves you immensely.

So if you're that person, and trust me, you are not alone, that has been diving into sin or distracted with things that are keeping you from the things that God desires and commands, and you think you've lost too much time and what's the use at this point, let me encourage you that God can restore in moments what sin and your disobedience has stolen over the years. So here's what you do, you start today. You ask God to forgive you and help you love Him and hate sin or the things that distract you from His best. You start today. Open your Bible and go to the book of James or 1 John and prayerfully read and journal what the Holy Spirit speaks to you about. You ask someone to help you. And then you do that tomorrow, and when you fail, and you will, you confess and start again.

If you are growing in your faith and you're seeing results, then start asking Jesus what He wants you to do with that? Who do you need to mentor? How do you need to serve?

Storying Mark 13:1-37

Spend a little time coming up with your own Observation and Interpretation questions. Look back at past message notes for help.

Questions

✓ **Observation: What does it say?**

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✓ **Interpretation: What does it mean?**

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✓ **Application: How do I respond?**

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