

## Mark Chapter 13

In verses 1-8 Jesus speaks about the destruction of the Temple and aftereffects. Realize that by the time the gospels are written some things may have already occurred as they were written years afterwards. (Read Mark 13:14 – especially what is in the parentheses!)

In verses 9-13 there are further consequences. This reminds me of Jesus foretelling about his death in chapters 8, 9, and 10. He told them the progression of being arrested, tried, executed and rising from the dead. Here, the Temple will be destroyed, people will run for their lives, some will be put on trial, some will be betrayed like Jesus was, and some will be put to death. Persecutions for the faith have happened in the past and do happen in certain countries today, but for most of us this is not our experience. But there is a caution to be prepared in case that changes.

In verses 14-23 beyond the desolating sacrilege we alluded to earlier, there is a warning against false Messiah's leading people astray. Have you or anyone you know ever been lead astray by someone?

Verses 24-27 seem to portray and end of life as we know it. This was more than a solar eclipse like we had two weeks ago. Jesus, and Mark as he writes things in this chapter, is preparing the early church for the end times. Have there been times when you have heard rumors of the end times like Y2K?

In verses 28-31 we return to a fig tree analogy, but not the withered one, this is telling of one that revives after the cold of winter to come alive and put forth new leaves. Like we can see signs of the changing of the seasons we can see signs of the end of time. Mark and other 1<sup>st</sup> century Christians thought it would happen soon, but it didn't and here we are 2K years later. What do you make of that? I wonder how many years you can say, "Wait'll next year!"

In verses 32-37 the call is to keep alert or keep awake. Or as I learned the Boy Scout motto "Be prepared." My question is are you ready if Jesus were to come today or come to take you home today? Are your affairs in order?

FYI I have a document on the back this week to help you be ready.

## Funeral Worksheet

Name

Date completed/updated

Where would you like the service(s) held?

Hymns

Scripture

Other readings

Special music (by whom?)

Name of Funeral Home

Have arrangements been made?

Burial or Cremation?

Name of Cemetery (or other place for ashes)

Do you have a plot?

Are you an organ donor?

What flower arrangements would you like?

What charities or organizations would you like people to donate to in your memory?

Do you have a will?

Is it current?

Name of your attorney

Other details?

Write your obituary or make a list of items you would like included - people, significant dates, education, employment, hobbies, associations, etc. Don't leave this to grieving family members who may forget some details.