

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

OCTOBER 3RD–4TH, 2025 // GOSPEL OF MARK

DESTRUCTION (MARK 13:1–4) BRAGGING ABOUT THE TEMPLE

After leaving the temple, the 12 brag about the temple. Located on Mt. Moriah, it took 46 years to build, was overlaid with gold, took up 1/6 of the city, and had 40 x 12 ft. monolith foundations. At this time, it was almost complete.

- It seems like they missed the point of Jesus' last lesson.

DIRECT AND TO THE POINT

Instead of polite conversation, Jesus shocks the 12 and informs them that the temple and the city will soon be destroyed. The temple was a symbol of their success and innovation. To destroy it would take tremendous force.

- **We often find too much value and identity in things that are breakable.**

THIS RATTLED SOME OF THEM

Peter, James, John, and Andrew were very disturbed by this prophecy. So, they went with Jesus up to the Mount of Olives (a dramatic view of the temple), and He taught them further.

- The Mount of Olives is very special. This is where Jesus ascended to Heaven (Acts 1) and where He will return (Zechariah 14).

THEY ASKED TWO IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

They asked, "When will these things happen? And what will be the sign when all these things are about to be accomplished?" These are questions we have been asking for 2,000 years.

- Jesus' answers will focus on two events: the **sacking of Jerusalem in 70 A.D.** and the **second coming of Christ.**

PREPARE (MARK 13:5–8) THE OLIVET DISCOURSE

Matthew 24–25 and Luke 21 accompany Mark 13 and add more detail. Mark's focus is the impact and danger that will arise after Jesus' resurrection and before His second coming.

- Jesus' first warning to His followers is to **"Watch out that no one deceives you. Many will come in My name..."**

A WARNING FOR EVERY GENERATION

Deception comes blatantly and subtly. Over the centuries many have claimed to be divine and have deceived vulnerable people. More subtly, many distort doctrines and manipulate Scripture to fit their agendas and ambitions.

- **What protects us from deception is the Bible and the conviction of the Spirit.**

NOT TO BE DECEIVED BY FEAR AND CHAOS

Jesus also told them **"don't be alarmed"** when there are wars, rumors of wars, political conflict, or even natural catastrophes because this is only the beginning of the **"birth pains."**

- **Christians are not to live in fear** (2 Timothy 1:7) **of current events, political upheaval, or global instability.** These things will pass.

JESUS PREPARING US FOR WHAT IS TO COME

It is not that we should be ignorant to what is going on in the world, but that we know evil will happen and even **increase over time.**

- Because Jesus gave us foreknowledge, **we can find peace in Him and His Word.** We know **He will eventually return to restore everything for His followers.**

BACK TO "BIRTH PAINS"

Like a woman prepares to deliver because she feels contractions, **we are to spiritually prepare via a strong relationship with Jesus for the turbulence that is coming.**

- There will be enormous pain before He returns, but **those who have prepared will endure and be eternally delivered.**

UNTIL THE END (MARK 13:9–13) "BUT YOU, BE ON YOUR GUARD!"

Jesus prepared His disciples for the suffering they'd face. He told them they'd suffer publicly, locally, by the government, and even religiously.

- **Truth garners hate because it contradicts selfish desire. If we truly follow Jesus and His Word, we will be hated because of the truth He teaches and embodies.**

THE MAIN POINT OF CHRISTIAN PERSECUTION

The persecution of the disciples would result in the proclamation of the gospel. Through their courage and allegiance to Jesus these men "turned the world upside down" (Acts 17:6) and took the gospel to the world.

- This was Jesus' primary goal with the 12 (Matthew 28) and also our main mission today.

HIGH CALLING, HIGH COST, AND BIG REWARDS

The disciples sacrificed a lot. Ten were brutally killed and one was boiled alive and exiled, but their names will be eternally written on the foundations of the New Jerusalem.

- Our cost may be high as well, but we must remember **pain is temporary and Jesus is faithful to reward His followers.**

WE ARE NOT ON OUR OWN IN THIS MESS

Jesus sent out the 12 "like sheep among wolves" (Matthew 10), in the world but not of it (John 17), but He also provided the Spirit to help (John 14).

- **Adversity is inescapable, and isolation is not biblical. Christians are to be full of the Spirit so we can engage the world and remain "unstained" by it** (James 1:27).

THE SPIRIT PROVIDES THE WORDS

After Jesus told the disciples they would proclaim the truth, even in front of people of influence, He also assured them **that the Spirit would give them wisdom and knowledge.**

- We need Jesus, the Word, and the Spirit every day as we navigate life. If we will **read, pray, and listen, He will guide us.**

MORE SIGNS OF THE END (VS. 12–13A)

As time goes on, the division of good and evil will become more distinct (Matthew 13:24–30). In this increasing distinction, people will grow so hateful of the things of God they will hate Christians "because of [His] name" and "put to death" people who stand on biblical principles, even family.

UNTIL THE END

"The one who endures to the end will be saved" has sparked much debate over eternal security and if one can lose salvation.

- **If one is in relationship with Christ, salvation should not be a concern.** True salvation is shown by **enduring present and future troubles because we love Jesus.**
- **There is a difference between infatuation with Jesus and being in love with Him.**
- **True love** is demonstrated through long-term dedication to Jesus and His Word.
- **Infatuation** is demonstrated when one strays from Christ and the Word and starts to justify sin and sinful lifestyles.

WHAT WE VALUE

- If we value anything in this world, even religious things, more than Jesus and His Word, we will be disappointed and lack endurance because all of these things will pass away (1 John 2:17; 2 Corinthians 4:18).
- How can we know? **Where do our time, money, energy, and passions lie?**

BEING ALERT AND PREPARED

- If we are to "endure until the end," we must prepare ourselves for the hardships and temptations that have not come yet.
- We prepare through **true repentance, prayer, the Word, obedience, learning to listen to the Spirit** (conviction, discernment, etc.), and **avoiding temptations.**

INFATUATION VS. LOVE

- **The question is, do we love Jesus or are we just infatuated? Loving Jesus means sacrifice, dedication, and allegiance to Him and the truth (the Bible) as we endure until the end of our lives or His return.**
- Those who turn their backs on the Lord or His Word demonstrate infatuation.

AN INVENTORY

- What do we really value the most?
- Are we intentionally preparing for increasingly hard times?
- Are we willing to sacrifice everything for the sake of Jesus and the truth contained in His Word?