

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

OCTOBER 5TH, 2025 // GOSPEL OF MARK

PERSPECTIVE (MARK 13:1-2) THE SETTING

As Jesus was leaving the temple area, probably on Wednesday evening, one of His disciples called Him “Teacher” and with awe, called attention to the massive stones and magnificent buildings in the temple.

- This temple in Jerusalem was being built by the Herodian dynasty to win over the Jewish people and leave a visible legacy.

THE TEMPLE

It was considered an architectural wonder of the ancient world. It was built with large white stones, polished, and generously decorated with gold. It covered about one-sixth of the land area of old Jerusalem.

- To the Jews, nothing was as magnificent and formidable as their temple.
- **We can easily become proud of our structures and systems. We may even believe that they are indestructible. We do not see what God sees.**

JESUS SAID

Jesus’ response was a prediction of the total destruction of all of these great buildings.

- The whole complex would be completely leveled.
- His prediction was fulfilled within the span of a generation. In 70 A.D. the Romans would destroy all of Jerusalem and the temple with it.
- **What many considered the dwelling place of God was gone. Jesus was about to make every Believer the dwelling place of His Holy Spirit. God’s plan was being seen in real time.**

SIGNS (MARK 13:3-8) ON THE MOUNT OF OLIVES

Jesus and His disciples are across the Kidron Valley on top of the Mount of Olives. It is about 100 feet higher than Jerusalem, and they can see the temple and the city.

- Four of the disciples meet with Him privately and ask for more information about His prediction.
- **The religious leaders had been silenced, but Jesus still welcomed questions from His followers. Questions are how we learn, understand, and verify.**

WHEN AND WHAT

Once again, the disciples’ perspective was limited. With only the Old Testament prophecy as a guide, they believed the destruction of the temple would usher in the reign of the Messiah King. They wanted to be ready.

- Jesus would answer their questions but not just to satisfy their curiosity or clear their confusion. He would share warnings of coming deception.
- **We can get caught up in timing and forget the mission. Deception will lead to distraction.**

“MANY WILL COME IN MY NAME”

Jesus warned them that false prophets would rise in times of crisis and use His name to advance their agendas. Some would even claim that they are the Messiah.

- History shows that this has happened many times in the past 2,000 years. Some were more obvious than others.
- **It still happens today. Many use the name of Christ to position themselves as authorities and influencers because they seek power like His.**

“DON’T BE ALARMED”

It looks like a prophecy of wars—nation against nation. Instead, it is a warning of misinterpretation.

- He is letting them know that just because the earth rumbles and nations rise against nation, it is not time to slow down or quit.
- **All events in the past and the future must take place. Yes, we are closer today than ever before, but this is not the time to huddle up in the corner and wait for the end. Christ sent His first disciples and is still sending us today. We are just getting started!**

PREPARED (MARK 13:9-13) BE ON YOUR GUARD

Jesus gave each disciple personal responsibility to be prepared for the persecution that was coming. Betrayal, trials, floggings, and legal battles were in their future.

- This was not a warning to run away and hide. It was a commission to go and share with the nations, knowing that it may cost their freedom or even their lives. Their persecutors needed to hear the gospel.
- **Do we realize that the gospel is for everyone, even for those who respond negatively to it?**

“WHAT YOU WILL SAY”

Jesus tells His disciples that they will face authorities who will stand in judgment over them, and they should not be afraid.

- If they are faithful, the Holy Spirit will give them the bold and appropriate words to say.
- **It is not about crafting words that will appease the authorities (or other people); it is about saying the words of defense that are necessary.**

“BROTHER WILL BETRAY BROTHER”

It is one thing to stand against the establishment; it is another thing to stand against family.

- Even the closest family bonds will be broken for Christ’s sake.

- The hatred in the courts and homes will include all segments of society, and they will demand the death of whoever speaks the truth. What will we do?

PERSIST IN PERSECUTION

Even after Jesus reveals that they will be excessively persecuted, He expects them to endure to the end.

- **Perseverance in the face of the coming persecution will result in salvation for Christ’s followers—not on the basis of endurance that earns, but on the basis of endurance that evidences salvation in the Believer.**

READY

- We want to be ready.
- **We like to know what is coming so we know how to prepare.**
- **But what are we preparing for? Our defense? Our attack? Our escape? We may know what is coming, but are we ready to do what we think is best? Is it what is best for us or others?**

RESPONSE

- Having everything ready is not the same as actually responding.
- **Ready is a mindset; response is a planned, prepared action.**
- **God has not revealed the future for us to worry. It is there for us to move toward. Will we respond to the world’s actions with faithfulness that glorifies Him?**

FAITH

- We need more faith.
- We want more faith now!
- **God may give us the words to speak at the right time, but that does not mean we can be lazy in our faith. God gives us faith, but we must grow it. If we are going to be ready to respond, we need to exercise our faith today. The future should not surprise us. What is surprising is how many “Christians” are not ready to stand, serve, and sacrifice in faith because they have not practiced obedience. Are we ready?**