

Watch and Pray

Mark 13

Trinity Bible Church - Adult Sunday School Class
“Jesus Christ, The Son of God” – Lesson 18
May 2nd, 2021

Introduction

- ◆ Topic for today: The Olivet Discourse
 - ◆ Recorded in the synoptic gospels (Matt. 24, Mark 13, Luke 21)
- ◆ Eschatology: Is it important?
 - ◆ Longest answer Jesus gives to any question
 - ◆ Prepares God's people for the present and the future
 - ◆ Encourages God's people through trouble
 - ◆ Informs us how to act as these events come to pass
- ◆ Focus and stand firm on what is clearly revealed
- ◆ Have grace and kindness on what is more obscure

Judgment on the Temple

- ◇ Jesus' prophecy of coming destruction (Vs. 1-2)
 - ◇ Prompted by the conversations of his disciples (Mk. 13:1, Matt. 24:1, Lk. 21:5)
 - ◇ Indicated complete destruction of the temple and surrounding area
- ◇ Why was the Temple going to be destroyed?
 - ◇ The need for the temple was about to pass away
 - ◇ Christ's sacrifice gave us complete access to the Father
 - ◇ Christ's sacrifice perfectly atoned for sin
 - ◇ The rejection of Christ brings judgment
 - ◇ 'You will be destroyed because you rejected the Messiah (Lk. 19: 41-44)
 - ◇ Jesus' response to this rejection: "He wept over the city"

Jesus and the Disciples

- ◆ The disciples private questions (Vs. 3-4, Matt. 24: 3, Lk. 21:7)
 - ◆ When is the destruction of the temple going to come to pass?
 - ◆ What should we look for to know when you are coming at the end of the age?
- ◆ The disciples' assumption: These things are coming now or very soon
 - ◆ They thought the kingdom was to appear immediately (Lk. 19:11)
 - ◆ Will you restore the kingdom to us now? (Acts 1:6)
- ◆ Does Jesus answer their questions?
 - ◆ No number or specific time ever revealed to the disciples (Vs. 30, 32)
 - ◆ Time between Christ and the end described

Be on Your Guard

- ◆ Jesus' first command: Do not be led astray by false messiahs (Vs. 5-6)
 - ◆ The false claim: "I am Christ"
 - ◆ Many will come... and will deceive many
- ◆ Jesus' second command: Do not be alarmed (Vs. 7-8)
 - ◆ Do not be alarmed by wars and threats of coming war
 - ◆ Do not be alarmed by earthquakes and natural disasters
 - ◆ These events are decreed but are not the signs of the end
- ◆ Why should they not be alarmed?
 - ◆ These are the beginnings of the birth pangs (Vs. 8)
 - ◆ Tribulation and trouble will increase

Be on Your Guard

- ◇ Jesus third command: Be on Your Guard (Vs. 9-10)
 - ◇ You are going to be brought to court, beaten, and brought before kings
 - ◇ Reason for persecution: Because they hate me
 - ◇ What are we to do when this occurs? (Vs. 10)
- ◇ The first landmark: The gospel must first be preached to all nations
- ◇ Jesus fourth command: Do not be anxious for words to say (Vs. 11-13)
 - ◇ An unfailing promise: The Holy Spirit will be with you
 - ◇ The climax of persecution: Hate and Murder
- ◇ He who endures to the end will be saved

The Abomination of Desolation

- ◇ The sign of imminent peril (Vs. 14a)
 - ◇ When you see him... standing where he ought not. (Matt. 24:15: The holy place)
 - ◇ This is not the sign of Christ's coming (Vs. 4, Matt. 24:3)
- ◇ The correct response: Flee (Vs. 14b-18)
 - ◇ Primarily aimed towards those in Judea
 - ◇ Do not delay even for a moment
- ◇ The reason to flee: The greatest tribulation in history (Vs. 19)
- ◇ God's merciful response: Shortened the time of trouble
- ◇ God's repeated warning: Be on your guard (Vs. 20-23)

Daniel's Abomination of Desolation

- ◇ And after threescore and two weeks shall **Messiah** be cut off, but not for himself: and **the people of the prince that shall come** shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. And he shall **confirm the covenant with many** for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall **cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease**, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall **make it desolate**, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.
- ◇ Three entities in this Prophecy
- ◇ Three actions of the coming prince
- ◇ Daniel's sequence of events
 - ◇ Messiah cut off – City destroyed – Desolation of the Prince

The Abomination of Desolation

- ◆ What events are being referred to in this section?
 - ◆ The destruction of Jerusalem by Titus and the Roman army in 70 AD
 - ◆ Not to be excluded from Christ's intended message. (Luke 21:20)
 - ◆ Not the intended meaning here
- ◆ How to know if you are currently in the great Tribulation
 - ◆ 2 Thess. 2: 3-4 – Man of sin being worshipped in the temple
 - ◆ Dan. 9:27, 12:11: Offering taken away and the abomination set up
- ◆ Who is this warning intended for?
- ◆ The Great Tribulation: trouble intensified, but not changed in nature

The Coming of Christ

- ◇ When will this occur? (Vs. 24, Matt. 24: 29)
- ◇ The events preceding His coming (Vs. 24-25)
 - ◇ Sun and moon will be darkened (Rev. 8:12)
 - ◇ Stars will be falling from heaven (Rev. 6:13)
- ◇ The Coming of Christ (Vs. 26-27)
 - ◇ In power and glory
 - ◇ Visible to all men (Matt. 24: 27,30)
 - ◇ With his angels and Saints... to gather together his saints

Signs and Preparation

- ◆ The sign of the Fig Tree (Vs. 28-29)
 - ◆ What do leaves indicate?
 - ◆ When you see these events taking place... What do they indicate?
- ◆ Who does Jesus mean by 'this generation'? (Vs. 30)
 - ◆ Current people living in Israel? The people living in the latter days?
- ◆ Two Questions Answered (Vs. 30-32)
- ◆ Be on your guard and keep awake (Vs. 32-37)
 - ◆ Actions required by this command
 - ◆ Earnestly watch and wait for his coming so that we can welcome him
 - ◆ Love and serve each other. Live holy lives in Christ (Matt. 24:48-50)