



Mark 13:1-37 **Lesson 20**

Chapter 13 opens to the last week of our Lord's earthly life and ministry. After a face-to-face conflict with the religious leaders, emotions are peaked as Jesus sets Himself on a crash course with the cross. With these final days passing quickly, there are still vital lessons to be taught. After leaving the temple area, Jesus seizes the opportunity to prepare His followers about the future. Anyone intrigued about the future will enjoy this chapter as the Lord details His second coming and the end of the age.

Background Facts: Mark 13

Jerusalem's temple was one of the wonders of the Roman world. Impressive and elaborate, this building created a sense of awe simply by walking by it. It is considered by many historians to have been one of the biggest construction projects of the first century B.C.

1. With your Bible in hand, find a quiet spot and read through this entire chapter. Try to imagine yourself sitting at the Lord's feet as He answered the questions of the disciples and taught this dramatic sermon.
 - a. How would you summarize the meaning of this chapter?
 - b. What one principle for living the Christian life stood out to you?

Back to the Future: Mark 13:1-27

Leaving the temple area on His way to Bethany, Jesus and His disciples move through the Mount of Olives...it was a perfect setting for a sermon!

2. These are powerful words Jesus gives to His followers in verses 1–22. What is your initial reaction to this section?
 - Fear and trembling
 - Worry and anxiety
 - Confidence and assurance
 - 'Bring it on' mentality
3. From verses 1–2, what do you think the disciples expected Jesus to say in response to their admiration of the temple?
 - a. In your own words, describe Jesus' response.
4. As you read verse 3–4, why do you think these four disciples needed to speak privately with Jesus about this issue?
5. Write out the warnings Jesus gives from verses 5–13.
6. How would you have responded to the fact that you may be beaten or arrested as a result of taking the gospel to all the nations?
 - a. Jesus tells us that one form of persecution will be the betrayal of family members. How can that be one of the most hurtful experiences imaginable?
 - b. Revelation 21:1–4 details what will take place for the believer. How does this passage speak to you?

Bringing it into Focus:

Verse 10 talks about the gospel being preached to all nations. Have you ever had the opportunity to take a short mission trip? Where did you go? How did the experience challenge or change you? The mission field doesn't have to be in another country. Your mission field may be in your own home. What mission field is closest to your heart? How are you reaching out to those in your field today? Ask the Lord to direct you in how you can be more effective in the field in which He has planted you.

7. Verse 14 goes on to speak of a specific event, which will occur during the Great Tribulation. What is it?
 - a. Cross reference Luke 21:20–24 with Daniel 9:27. Try to describe what this “abomination” will be.
 - b. According to 2 Thessalonians 2:3–4, what specific act will he commit?
8. From verse 17, who does Jesus specifically single out as being vulnerable during this time?
9. Mark 13:21–22 gives yet another warning. Write it out here.
 - a. The word elect is a common theological term. From what you know in Scripture, define *the elect*.
 - b. From this definition... are you one of God's elect?
10. What kind of power will the false christs/prophets possess?
 - a. What do you think the Lord meant by “...be on your guard”? Does this involve a tolerance or indifference to their message?

Be Alert and Pray! Mark 13:28–37

Four times thru this section, Jesus says to take heed or watch! These warnings are even more critical to Christians today because we are living closer to the Lord's return than ever.

11. Let's close our study by taking a closer look at verses 28–37. What is the general lesson behind the parable of the fig tree?

Bringing it into Focus:

Verse 31 is a verse to live by! Take a moment to write it out, personalizing it for yourself. Take the challenge to commit this verse to memory today and ask the Holy Spirit to bring it to remembrance when things of this earth try and test you.

12. Who is the master and who are the servants of the parable of verses 32–37?
- a. Explain what Jesus meant by, *“But of that day and hour no one knows not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.”* Why would Jesus, being God, not know this?
13. Why does Jesus emphasize watchfulness?
- a. What element is coupled with this in order for us to be fully prepared?
14. From a personal perspective, how does the knowledge that Jesus Christ could return at any time affect your choices, attitude, and behavior for today? In the following list, try to find something you can do in a practical sense to help you be alert and ready for the Lord’s return.
- * Personal spiritual growth
 - * Evangelism in your neighborhood
 - * Ministering to your family
 - * Stewardship with your finances
 - * Effectiveness in your ministry
 - * Witness in the workplace
 - * Responsibility of time
15. What was the most practical lesson you learned from this chapter?