

Be On Your Guard (Mark 13:1-23) Café Church - 28-May-17

There are Bibles on the table in front of you
 And a sermon outline
 And some questions
 Let me pray first...

Intro

Question to begin with.

If you were going to face tough times; would you want to know about it before it happens?

[Yes/No/Maybe]

[Why would knowing in advance be helpful?]

Jesus gives a snapshot of the future for His disciples here in Mark chapter 13
 And He gives a snapshot of our future too...

Context (vv1-2)

But before we look at that

We need to get the context of our Bible passage this evening.

Last week - Jesus was already in the temple courts watching people putting in their offerings

And we read about a widow who gave all she had...

This week - in Mark 13:1-23

We are still in the vicinity of the temple area

See v1 - Jesus' disciples are marveling at the temple in Jerusalem! They say "what marvelous buildings"

And they're right.

Let's just have a quick history of the temple

[Powerpoint 1-King Solomon's temple]

The first temple in Jerusalem was built by King Solomon around about 957BC

It stood until 587BC when the Babylonians ransacked Jerusalem
 The people of Jerusalem were taken off into exile in Babylon for 70 years
 [Powerpoint 2-Solomon's Temple destroyed]

Then in 520BC the temple was rebuilt when the Jews were allowed to come back to Jerusalem

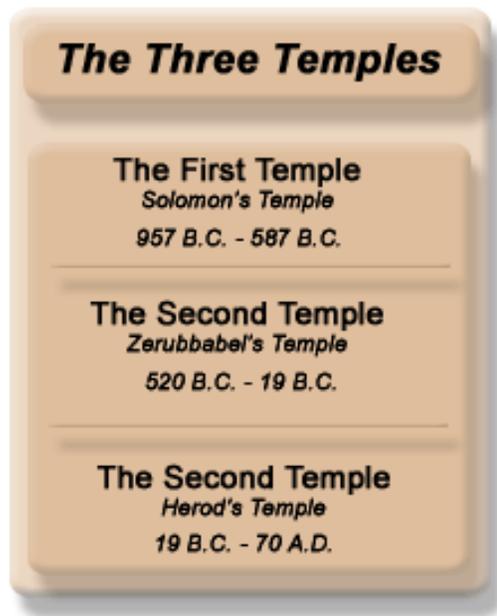
[Powerpoint 3-Zerubbabel's Temple]

It was rebuilt under the leadership of Zerubbabel - who was the leader of the tribe of Judah at that time (and son of the penultimate king of Judah, Jehoiachin)

This 2nd temple had stood since 520BC right up to the time of Jesus.

Around about 19BC King Herod the Great started major renovations of the temple which were still going on in Jesus' time

[Powerpoint 4-Explain 3 temples]



And just to get an idea of how huge this second temple is under King Herod

[Powerpoint 5-Comparison]

Prophecy - Temple will be destroyed! (vv2-4; vv14-20)

So as the disciples marvel at this great temple in Mark 13, verse 1

Jesus agrees it's a great temple and great buildings but He says in verse 2 - the Temple's going to get destroyed - not one stone left on top of another!

[Powerpoint 6-Prophecy]

The disciples ask 2 questions - WHEN will this happen and WHAT signs will show it's going to happen - the disciples are getting like the Pharisees asking for signs!

Jesus doesn't answer the when - but He does give the signs

From verse 14 to 20

See v14 - He says - When you see the 'abomination that causes desolation'

Translation -

Abomination=the detestable obscene evil thing related to idols/idolatry

Desolation = a state of complete emptiness or destruction

So there's a time coming when something so evil, so obscene, so wicked, will destroy the Holy city of Jerusalem and this temple

Originally this expression "the abomination that causes desolation" was quoted in Daniel 7:27 as a prophesy

Back in 168BC - a Greek King - Antiochus Epiphanes - raided the temple in Jerusalem - stole its treasures, set up an altar to the Greek God, Zeus and sacrifice pigs on the altar

And so God's Holy temple was desecrated!

He also slaughtered many Jews and sold others to slavery

Jews were ordered to sacrifice to pagan gods and eat pig flesh

Jesus is saying, something similar will happen to Jerusalem and the temple in the future

And when that happens

[Powerpoint 7a-Temple destroyed]

Don't hang around as in v14 - flee to the mountains

Don't even bother going home for clothes - v15-16

It's going to be a terrible time for pregnant woman and nursing mothers - v17

And Jesus says, pray it's not in winter - v18

It's going to be one of the worst times in history - v19

In 70AD - Roman emperor Titus invaded Israel

[Powerpoint 7b-70AD

The people crowded into the city of Jerusalem from the countryside

Titus starved the people

The situation was made complicated by the fact that in the city itself - there were sects and factions and groups who were saying follow them - and they would save them

Jewish historian says - 97,000 people were taken prisoner and 1,100,000 were slowly starved or killed by the sword

[Read from Barclay - page 311]

Only those who took Jesus advice and fled to the hills were saved!

Warnings of persecutions to come (vv9-13)

Jesus continues his look to the future and...

In verses 9 to 13 - Jesus warns the disciples they will face persecutions for being

His followers:

- V9-Flogged in synagogues - this happened to the disciples in Acts
- V9-Dragged before governors and kings - this happened to Paul
- V10-But it's necessary because the Gospel - Good News of Jesus must be preached
- V12-Family members will betray each other
- V13-Christians will be hated because of Jesus

In the last few days - we've had Coptic Christians killed in Egypt and Filipino Christians killed by ISIS

But there's hope in v13 - if we stand firm to the end

And by stand firm - Jesus means - keep trusting in Jesus

Then we will be saved from all of this!

Warnings to be on our guard (vv5-8, 21-23)

Still Jesus has more to say as He looks to the future...

In verses 5 to 8 and 21-23

[Powerpoint 9-Warnings]

Jesus warns His disciples to watch out for deceivers

V6 & 21 & 22-Many will come claiming to be the Messiah returning - but they are deceivers and false messiahs and prophets!

V7-There will be all sorts of wars, and rumours of wars -

V8- Nation and kingdoms at loggerheads - and earthquakes and famines

But it's not the end of the world - this is just birth pains - this is just the start

All of these things Jesus warns the disciples about -

Happened in their time and are happening in our time

But it's not the end

Application to us

So how do we apply Mark chapter 13 - verses 1 to 23 to us today?

Well - we can say that the prophecies that Jesus makes are ALWAYS true. We've seen how the prophecy about the temple came true

Here's what it looks like now!

[Powerpoint 10-Temple Now]

All that remains of Herod's temple is the **Wailing Wall!**

The site of the temple has been built upon

In 638 AD there was a Muslim conquest of Jerusalem

And in 692AD - the Al-Aqsa Mosque and Dome of the Rock was built!

So for us today, what can we learn from this Bible passage...

[Powerpoint 11a-App1]

1. We can expect persecutions for being Christians - and this can take many forms - like what? [Open for answers]

[Powerpoint 11b-App2]

2. We can expect false Messiahs, deceivers, wars (Afghanistan, ISIS< Syria, Iraq) and rumours of wars (North Korea and Iran). We can expect nations to be at loggerheads (look at USA foreign policy, look at Europe and Britain exiting Europe) - look at terrorism - Manchester etc. We can expect earthquakes and famines - look at how many natural disasters there have been! Jesus tells us 3 things about this - we need to watch out we're not deceived (v5) - we need to stand firm to the end (v13) - and we need to on our guard

(v23) and that it's not the end - it's the END TIMES but not the end! (v7)
[Next week we'll continue with Mark 13 and talk about the End!]

3. The Temple in Jerusalem might have been destroyed - and replaced with a mosque and temple dome. But Jesus is the temple now- lookup John 2:13-22 - so true believers in Jesus have a personal temple - it's Jesus! Everyone on this planet is invited to come to this temple - Jesus!
4. Our bodies are a temple of the Holy Spirit - lookup John 14:15-21 and 1 Cor 6:19-20 - And Jesus promises in Mark 13:11 - that during our lives of witnessing and suffering and persecution - the HS will give us the words

Q & A