

Jesus is coming back! Are you ready? (Mark 13:24-37)

Café Church - 04-June-17

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

Context/Recap

Last week - Jesus was at the temple in Jerusalem and
 He predicted that as great as the temple was
 Because of the people of Israel's rebellion against God and because of their
 rejection of God's Son - Jesus - the Promised Messiah
 The temple would one day be destroyed!

And we said this actually happened in 70AD and it was a dreadful event in history
 When the Romans - under Emperor Titus - completely destroyed Jerusalem and the
 temple

And then we also drew some conclusions:

[Powerpoint 1-Recap]

1. As Christians we can expect persecutions - in different forms
2. We can expect false Messiah's, deceivers, wars and rumours of wars. We can expect nations at loggerheads. We can expect earthquakes and floods and famines. And We need to watch out, stand firm and be on our guard
3. Jesus is the temple now (John 2:13-22)
4. Our bodies are a temple of HS (John 14:15-21 and 1 Cor 6:19-20)

With all that in mind, Jesus now talks more about another future event.

The Second Coming (vv24-27)

So in verses 24 to 27

Jesus talks about a time - which He describes as

"Those days following that distress"

What distress?

The distress of the destruction of the temple

In "those days" - which are the days since the temple was destroyed

So from AD70 to now and beyond - that's - those days - that Jesus is talking about

In those days...

Jesus describes an amazing event in v24-26 - that will occur

[Powerpoint 2-Second Coming]

"the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light;

²⁵the stars will fall from the sky,

and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.'

²⁶"At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory.

WOW!

The Son of Man - that's Jesus -

Will come on clouds - the same way He left this earth - on clouds

And the Good News is

Jesus will send His angels it says in verse 27 - to every part of this planet to gather

- His elect - His elect being the people who believe in Him

What Jesus is predicted here is His **Second Coming!**

This is when he gathers up His people

[Lookup 1 Thes 4:16-18]

¹⁶For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

We should be encouraged by these words too!

Now turn back to Mark chapter 13

The Lesson of the Fig Tree (vv28-31)

And we hit a tricky section from v28 to 31

Jesus uses a picture story

[Powerpoint 3-Fig Tree]

He says just like when you see a fig tree in Israel start to have tender twigs and the leaves come out - you know it's summer

[Just like I know that this time of year is when our Mandarin tree blooms]

In the same way - Jesus says - in v29 - when you see these things happening?

Which things happening?

All the things He's described earlier in Mark chapter 13 -

Wars and rumours of wars, earthquakes and famines, persecutions

When they see these things happening - they know the prophecy is about to take place!

But Jesus has gone back to talking about the destruction of the temple

Why do I say that because of verse 30

Where He says "truly I tell you **this generation** will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened"

This generation must be the people He's talking to!

Once the generation of people Jesus is talking to see this - they know the temple will soon be destroyed

[Some have tried to say 'this generation' means 'this people or this race' - and so they say verses 28-31 are applying to the 2nd Coming and not the temple being destroyed]

But what we have here in Mark chapter 13 are 2 prophecies Jesus is warning about

1 - One - not so far ahead - the Destruction of the Temple

2. -And one - further ahead - the Second Coming of Jesus

It's like looking out in the distance to see 2 mountain peaks far ahead

One behind the other - but you don't know how long and deep the valley is in between

In the same way - we don't know how long and deep the valley of time is between these 2 prophecies.

But one thing is for sure

We can believe how true and permanent and everlasting Jesus' Words are in verse 31 - He says Heaven and Earth will disappear before His everlasting words of truth Here Jesus is claiming He is equal to God and eternal!

So we can draw confidence in knowing that if Jesus says it will happen - it will happen!

Details about the Second Coming (vv32-37)

[Powerpoint 4-Fig Tree]

Then in verses 32 to 37 - Jesus moves back to talking about His Second Coming And He makes an interesting point in verse 32 - He says

No one knows when Jesus is coming back - no person - no angel - not even Jesus the Son knows - only God the Father knows!

And He gives another little parable - in verses 34-36-

He says the Second Coming is like:

A man - the master of the house - leaving his house in the hands of the servants and they have work to do before the master comes back - and the servants don't know when the master is coming back - so they need to be ready and waiting and to have done all the work the master wanted! In case he finds them sleeping on the job!

So how do we apply this section of Mark 13 - to our lives today?

Application

[Powerpoint 5-App1]

1. We know Jesus is coming back. But we don't know when Jesus is coming back? Even Jesus doesn't know - so we should not be investing time and wasting time speculating on when He is coming back. Just accept no one knows. And stop guessing

[Powerpoint 5-App2]

2. Instead - Jesus says we must be prepared? [Baden Powell's motto] [Billy Graham-live your life each day as though Jesus is coming back!]

The people in Jesus' time and shortly after and the people of the early church thought Jesus was returning in their day! And it was okay for them to think that - many people today think the same. Many long for that day and they're ready and waiting. But Jesus has delayed His return - why? Lookup 2 Peter 3: 8-10 - ⁸ But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

[Powerpoint 5-App3

3. We have work to do like those servants did before the Master returns. We have the Lord's Work to do - to tell others about Jesus - tell others about Jesus death and resurrection - which brings forgiveness and eternal life. Are we doing that, before it's too late? How will you feel if you haven't mentioned Jesus to your loved ones? Who do we know that doesn't know about Jesus? What will we do about that?
What happens to us if we haven't made a commitment to Jesus before He returns?

Jesus is coming back! Are we ready?

Q & A

Let's pray...