

COLLIDE: When Heaven Meets Earth

“Be on Guard! Stay Awake!”

Brent Van Elswyk

March 30, 2014

Introduction:

Scripture:

Mark 13:1-37 Jesus is coming back!

Bottom Line:

Exposition:

1. Future Truth: There will be many _____ of His coming! v.1-13

2. Future Truth: There will be _____ main sign of his return. v.14-23

3. Future Truth: _____ knows the day or hour of his coming! v.24-37

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Application:

1. Present Responsibility: _____ !

“do not be deceived; do not be alarmed, be on your guard” v. 5, 7, 9

2. Present Responsibility: _____ !

“be on your guard” v. 23

3. Present Responsibility: _____ !

“be on guard, keep awake, puts his servants in charge, each with his work, stay awake” v. 33, 34, 35, 37

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Community Group Curriculum
For the week of March 30, 2014
“Future of the Kingdom”
Mark 13:1-37

BIG PICTURE

We see in this week's lesson Jesus once again revealing more and more details about what is to come. From foretelling the destruction of the temple to warning His disciples of the pitfalls they are going to face. He is preparing us for the deception of many and giving wisdom and encouragement to make it through what lies ahead. Jesus summarizes this lesson in a parable about a fig tree. We are to know the signs of the end and we need to be looking for them!

Note: Mark 13 is considered the most complex and difficult chapter in Mark, one that causes even world-class scholars to toss up their hands. Enjoy!

LET'S DIG IN!

1. Read Mark 13:1-13

- a. The temple was a magnificent structure that took almost 40 years to rebuild. It became a source of pride for Jews everywhere in the kingdom. Why do you think that Jesus used the discussion about the temple to begin His discourse about the end of the age? What made the temple so significant for the disciples? What would its destruction mean to them?
- b. What was Jesus' primary reason for telling His disciples what signs would precede the end of the age (v. 5)?
- c. Why did Jesus tell His disciples not to be alarmed when they hear about false prophets (v. 6), political conflicts (v. 7), and natural disasters (v. 8)? How do you interpret the last sentence in verse 8?
- d. What one thing must be accomplished prior to the second coming of Christ (v. 10)? Has that been accomplished today?
- e. In verse 13 Jesus says we need patience to hold onto our faith in the midst of difficulties. How can we have deeper patience in our lives?

2. Read Mark 13:14-23

- a. After the period of patience Jesus describes, what does Jesus say will happen next?
- b. What is the “abomination of desolation” that Jesus describes in verse 14? Look at Daniel 9:27, 11:31, 12:11, and 2 Thessalonians 2:3-10 for help.
- c. What's the greatest temptation that will face Christians during the “days of distress” (vv. 22-23)? How do “false prophets” reveal themselves today?

3. Read Mark 13:24-27

- a. In your own words, what sort of events will immediately precede the second coming of Christ?

- b. Compare Mark 13:26 with Daniel 7:13-14. What is Jesus saying about Himself?

4. Read Mark 13:28-37

- a. Some have understood Jesus' illustration of the fig tree (v. 28) as a symbol for the nation Israel (remember Mark 11:12-26). It is more likely that in this case Jesus is just using a familiar event in nature as another illustration. What is the point of this illustration?

- b. The concluding command in this chapter is not, "Sit down and work out a prophetic timetable," but instead, "Keep awake and watch!" (A key theme throughout the chapter). What does Jesus mean by this command, and how can we carry it out today?

- c. What are some things we will NOT do if we want to remain alert and watchful?

Extra Credit: List all the commandments to believers in chapter 13 from these verses: 5, 7, 9, 11, 18, 21, 23, 28, 33, 35 and 37. What are the key themes?

PRAYER PLEASE

Pray for Easter preparations. Pray for our church family to be bold in inviting people to the Easter service. Pray that many will come to the Easter service, will hear the Good News, and respond by turning their life over to Christ. Pray for many to follow in baptism. Pray for unity as a church body. Pray that we focus on Christ intently and follow His example of love and serving others.

KEY DEFINITIONS

Tribulation – Distress, misery, affliction and/or persecution. The New Testament sometimes uses this word to denote a period of trial, trouble and testing that will soon come to all men before the arrival of Jesus Christ to rule the world.

Second Coming – The prophesied return of Christ to earth at the Last Judgment.

FINAL THOUGHT

As said by author and pastor David Jeremiah:

"Rather than spending all your time reading the magazines and trying to figure the nuances of what the future might hold, maybe you should spend at least as much time getting to know Him better. Then when the future becomes the present, you will enjoy a wondrously close relationship with almighty God and you can be walking with the Lord Jesus Christ in strength. No matter what happens."