

Lesson 20: Mark 13 -14:11

Our last lesson began with the parable of the tenants. The parable used metaphors to illustrate how Israel, God's vineyard, had rejected the prophets, and would ultimately kill the Son sent from the Creator. Also in last week's lesson, we saw how the Pharisees, Herodians, Sadducees and scribes all tried to trap Jesus into saying something that was either blasphemy, or a threat to Rome. Jesus proclaimed that the LORD is one and that the greatest of the Laws was to love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength. The second greatest commandment is to love your neighbor as yourself. Jesus denounces the hypocrisy of the scribes and then applauded a poor widow who gave two copper coins as a donation to the temple; a greater sacrifice than large donations made by the wealthy. Today's lesson includes apocalyptic themes. Jesus tells his apostles that the end is "*not yet*," but He goes on to warn them to *be ready*. This section of Mark's Gospel is known as the "Olivet Discourse."

1. **Read Mark 13:1-2, footnotes and Jeremiah 26:18 here. Share your footnotes with your group.**

Jer 26:18 "Micah of Moresheth, used to prophesy in the days of Hezekiah, king of Judah, and he said to all the people of Judah: Thus says the LORD of hosts: Zion shall be plowed as a field, Jerusalem, a heap of ruins, and the temple mount, a forest ridge.

- a. **In Mark 13:1, what was the focus of the disciple who was addressing Jesus?**
 - b. **About which historical event is Jesus, and the prophet Micah, prophesying?**
2. **Read Mark 13:3-8 and footnotes. Share your footnotes with your group.**
 - a. **Which of the Apostles are asking Jesus for more information about his prophecy?**
 - b. **What prophecy does Jesus make in 13:5-6?**
 - c. **What prophecy does He make in 13:7?**
 - d. **What is foretold 13:8?**
 - e. **Compare translations within your group for Mark 13:8.**

3. **Read 13:9-13 and footnotes.**

What is the warning Jesus is giving to his Apostles in these verses?

4. **Read 2 Corinthians 11:24 and Deuteronomy 25:1-3 here.**

2 Cor 11:24 Five times at the hands of the Jews I received forty lashes minus one. (Paul)

Deut 25:1-3 When there is a dispute and the parties draw near for judgment, and a decision is given, declaring one party in the right and the other in the wrong, ² if the one in the wrong deserves whipping, the judge shall have him lie down and in the presence of the judge receive the number of lashes the crime warrants. ³ Forty lashes may be given, but no more; or else, if more lashes are added to these many blows, your brother will be degraded in your sight.

- a. **Who is it who would persecute the disciples?**
- b. **Paul reported his treatment in 2 Corinthians. Where did the prescribed punishment that he suffered come from?**

5. Read Mark 13:14-23 and footnotes. Share any footnotes with your group.

Read also Daniel 9:27 -For one week he shall make a firm covenant with the many; Half the week he shall abolish sacrifice and offering; In their place shall be the desolating abomination until the ruin that is decreed is poured out upon the desolator.”

And read Daniel 11:31- Armed forces shall rise at his command and defile the sanctuary stronghold, abolishing the daily sacrifice and setting up the desolating abomination.

- a. **What *signs* should the disciples look for?**
- b. **What are the followers of Jesus told they should do when these things happen? Should they stand and fight their aggressors?**
- c. **Does Mark 13:21-22 repeat the warnings in 13:5-6?**

6. Read Mark 13:24-27 and footnotes. Share your footnotes with the group.

Read also Dan 7:13 and CCC 673 here-

Dan 7:13 As the visions during the night continued, I saw coming with the clouds of heaven One like a son of man. When he reached the Ancient of Days and was presented before him,

CCC 673 Since the Ascension, Christ’s coming in glory has been imminent, even though “it is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority.” This eschatological coming could be accomplished at any moment, even if both it and the final trial that will precede it are “delayed.”

What events does Jesus foretell in these verses?

7. Read Mark 13:28-31 and footnotes.

a. **How is the fig tree used to illustrate the need to read the signs of the times?**

b. **Think: Which of the prophecies of Jesus *did* occur while the Apostles were still alive?**

8. Read Mark 3:32-37.

What is the main message in these verses?

9. Read Mark 14:1-2. What are the primary concerns of the priests and scribes in these verses?

10. Read Mark 14:2-9 and footnotes.

a. **Who is dining with Jesus here?**

b. **Where in these verses do we see another prediction of Jesus’ death?**

c. **How is Jesus’ message in Mark 14:6-7 similar to his words in Mark 2:19-20?**

Mark 2:19-20 “Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? As long as they have the bridegroom with them they cannot fast. ²⁰ But the days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast on that day.

d. **Reflect: Is there a message here about worshipping the LORD and giving to the poor?**