



Sermon Overview

In this chapter, Mark compiles a collection of Jesus' teachings and sayings from various occasions to show his disciples how to persevere with the end in mind, while continuing to live obediently and joyfully in the present. Overall, the most reasonable, accurate and fruitful interpretation of this chapter sees this teaching as a culmination of Jesus' teaching against what the temple had become, begun in chapter 11.

Throughout this chapter there is running admonition against future speculation at the expense of present obedience. Mark does not give a blueprint for the future, but rather confidence in God's purpose and presence in the meantime for the church. Mark's consistent call for readiness is, and should be interpreted, as a call to be and make disciples in the here and now.

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Getting Started

1. What kind of emotions are stirred when you consider Jesus' physical return? Are there feelings rooted in scripture?

Starting with God

2. Since the disaster Jesus is predicting in verse 2 is so mammoth, what point in history do the disciples probably think Jesus is describing? (i.e., what are "these things" the disciples are asking about in verse 4?)
3. Why do you think the destruction of the temple and Jerusalem was so significant for Christians (especially in the first century)?

4. Make a list of all the insights you can glean from verses 5-37 about the second coming of Jesus Christ to earth.

5. Read verses 32-37. We know that Jesus is returning but not when. What is the practical impact of this balance of 'knowing and not knowing'?

Living God's Word

6. Reflect for a minute on how your behavior and life would change if you took seriously what you've learned today about Jesus' return.

Prayer

*Father God,
Thank you for the trustworthy promise of Christs' return. Please form my heart that I may
desire to live in obedient anticipation of your return, while at the same time joyfully living and
participating in the life you've so graciously given me here today.
Amen.*