

## Summary

Pastor explores Mark 13, Jesus' End Times discourse, addressing the tension between worldly problems and God's promises. Jesus introduces a new eschatology with three eras: the present evil age, last days (which we're currently in), and the age to come. Many prophecies have already been fulfilled, including the temple's destruction, false messiahs, wars, earthquakes, famines, and persecution. The sermon emphasizes that while we don't know when Jesus will return, we must stay ready through faith, repentance, and living on mission. Jesus gave this teaching not to scare but to prepare His followers for the challenges of living in the 'already but not yet' kingdom.

## Intro Prayer

Father, thank You for gathering us together today. As we open Your Word and our hearts, we ask that You would speak to us through Your Holy Spirit. Help us to be open to what You want to teach us and show us today. Give us ears to hear and hearts that are ready to receive Your truth. We surrender our preconceived notions and ask that You would awaken us to the realities of Your kingdom. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## Ice Breaker

What's one thing that really impressed you as a child that doesn't seem as amazing to you now as an adult?

## Key Verses

1. Mark 13:2
2. Mark 13:5-6
3. Mark 13:10
4. Mark 13:26
5. Mark 13:32
6. Mark 13:37

## Questions

1. How do you typically handle the tension between the brokenness you see in the world and the promises of God in Scripture?
2. Jesus wasn't impressed by the magnificent temple stones but was amazed by people's faith. What tends to impress you most - material achievements or spiritual realities?
3. The sermon mentioned that the greatest threat to the church is not persecution but deception. Why do you think deception is more dangerous than persecution?

4. Jesus said 'Everyone will hate you because of me' (Mark 13:13). How do you prepare yourself mentally and spiritually for potential rejection because of your faith?
5. We're living in the 'last days' - the time between Jesus' first and second coming. How should this reality change how we live day to day?
6. Jesus said no one knows the day or hour of His return (Mark 13:32). How do you balance being watchful and ready while still planning for the future?
7. If you knew Jesus was returning tomorrow, what would you do differently today? What does your answer reveal about your current priorities?
8. The sermon emphasized staying ready rather than trying to predict when Jesus will return. What does 'staying ready' look like practically in your life?

## Life Application

This week, identify one area where you've been 'spiritually asleep' - perhaps neglecting prayer, avoiding a difficult conversation, or not sharing your faith. Take one concrete step to 'wake up' in that area. Also, have an honest conversation with someone close to you about how you're really doing (beyond just saying 'fine') and ask them to pray for you in the tensions you're facing.

## Key Takeaways

1. We are currently living in the 'last days' - the time between Jesus' first and second coming, characterized by an 'already but not yet' kingdom
2. Many of Jesus' prophecies in Mark 13 have already been fulfilled, while others are still happening and some are yet to come
3. Jesus gave this teaching not to scare us but to prepare us - it's about trust, not timing
4. The greatest threat to the church is deception, not persecution, so we must stay grounded in truth
5. We cannot predict when Jesus will return, but we must stay ready through faith, repentance, and living on mission

## Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for the hope we have in Your return. Help us to live each day with the reality that You are coming back. Give us wisdom to navigate the tensions of this world while keeping our eyes fixed on You. Strengthen our faith during difficult times and help us to be faithful witnesses until You return. May our hearts cry 'Come, Lord Jesus' as we long for the day when all things will be made right. Keep us watchful, keep us ready, and use us to share Your love with others while we wait. In Your precious name, Amen.