

Taking it Home

- Have you ever witnessed the destruction caused by those who fixate on understanding end times to the detriment of their present responsibilities? Why do you think this can happen? What hope does Mark 13:5-8 offer for those worried about the end times?

- Mark 13:9-13 is not an easy pill to swallow. How can you prepare yourself for the trials that will come because you are following Jesus?

- Next to each of these items, write a simple prayer asking God to help you live this out this week:
 - 13:7 “do not be alarmed”

 - 13:9 “be on your guard”

 - 13:11 “do not be anxious”

 - 13:13 “endure”

Memory Verse

“And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.” Mark 13:11

Mark: The End of the Age

Births Pangs

Mark 13:1-13

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Bethel Church

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Births Pangs

Notes:

For more information about Growth Groups, the At Home Study Guide, and a podcast of sermons with study guide, visit www.bethelc.com.

Quick Review

The disciples were surprised by Jesus response when He didn't join them in celebrating the beauty of the temple in Mark 13. In so many ways, the temple represented the patriotic and religious symbol of the day. Restored and rededicated in 164 BC after the defeat of Antiochus Epiphanes, the temple was annually celebrated in Israel during the Feast of Dedication. To the citizens of Rome, the temple was one of the wonders of the world. The temple was decorated with a solid gold covering over the outside causing the structure to glimmer and dazzle from a distance. Truly, this was a magnificent engineering accomplishment. As one of the disciples commented on the beauty, Jesus' response was not what he expected. Once again, he forewarned His followers that this temple would be destroyed. The judgments of Mark 11 and following indicate that a new system is being established. The tone of Mark 13:1-13 is one of a loving shepherd warning His sheep that a new day is coming and inspiring them to stay on mission in the midst of trials to come.

My Story

- What's something you've recently had to wait on for longer than you expected and how did you respond?

- Who do you know that has endured tremendous challenges and serves as a model of hopefulness? What is unique about that person?

Growing Deeper

- What stands out to you as significant when you compare Mark 11:11-25 to 13:1-13? Note the change in setting through each section from public to private. How is the message similar in these two passages?

- Jesus says that those who endure will be saved. Compare this text to James 5:11; Hebrews 3:6; and Revelation 2:10. What does this kind of endurance look like?

- Look also at Luke 18:1-9, especially verse 5, and John 13:1 where the same word for endurance is used. How could you summarize this kind of endurance?

- Summarize for yourself each of these:
 - 13:5-8

 - 13:9-13

- How does 13:10 display the heart of God for all people? Contrast this to the heart of the Pharisees we've seen recently in Mark 11-12.