

Refuge City Church — September 6, 2020 “Is This The End?” (Mark 13:28-37)

Introduction

- **Last week:** The AntiChrist, The Tribulation, and the 2nd Coming of Jesus
 - REMINDER: The imperatives Jesus has given thus far.
 - Do not be deceived. Be alert. Be on guard.
- **Today:** Jesus closes His ‘Olivet Discourse’ by answering the first question the disciples asked, last.

Scripture Reading (Mark 13:28-37)

28 “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. **29** So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. **30** Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. **31** Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. **32** “But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. **33** Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. **34** It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. **35** Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning— **36** lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. **37** And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”

Verses 28-29

28 “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. **29** So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates.

- The Fig Tree
 - **REMEMBER:** Jesus used a fig tree prior **[Chapter 11]**
 - The tree was used to illustrate the deception of those who claim to have fruit, but in fact, do not.
 - In like fashion, the tree is now used to illustrate a different type of perception.
 - If one can perceive the growth and development of the tree, they can then determine the coming season.
 - When you see the leaves (signs of coming fruit), you know Summer is near.
 - **Luke 10:2**, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” **[Our Job: sow the seed of the gospel]**
 - **Mark 4:29**, “But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.” **[His Job: ‘pick’ those who have believed in Him]**
 - **James 5:7-8**, “Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient

about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.”

- “The small farmer plants his carefully saved seed and hopes for a harvest, living on short rations and suffering hunger during the last weeks. The whole livelihood, indeed the life itself, of the family depends on a good harvest: the loss of the farm, semistarvation, or death could result from a bad year. So the farmer waits for an expected future event; no one but he could know how precious the grain really is...” (Peter H. Davids)
- **DON'T FORGET:** We who are in Christ have much to anticipate in the coming of Jesus!
 - We focus a lot on others in their salvation, but there is tremendous reward that awaits us in glory

Verses 30-31

30 Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. **31** Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

- “This generation” = nation, race, or time
- His word is true. He IS the Word!
 - **Psalms 102:25-27**, “Of old you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you will remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away, but you are the same, and your years have no end.”
 - **Isaiah 40:8**, “The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.”

Verses 32-33

32 “But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. **33** Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come.

- **Verse 4:** the disciples wanted to know WHEN all this will take place.
 - Jesus now addresses that more specifically.
- **QUESTION:** How could Jesus, who is God, not know the hour?
 - **Philippians 2:6-7**, “who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.”
 - He did not release His deity, but some knowledge in His humanity.
 - **Luke 2:52**, “And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.”
- We don't need to know. We need to be obedient!
 - “Be on guard. Keep awake.”

- This is not a matter of watching and waiting for the temple to be built, or the Antichrist to come, or the Tribulation period to begin.
- This is about Jesus' return!
 - Pre-Tribulation/Rapture view: Jesus could come back at any moment, in the blink of an eye. Be on guard. Keep awake!
 - Post-Tribulation view: When you see the tribulation events take shape. Be on guard. Keep awake!
- **Acts 1:6-8**, "So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?' He said to them, 'It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.'"

Verses 34-36

34 It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. **35** Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning— **36** lest he come suddenly and find you asleep.

- Parable
 - The master of the house [**Jesus**] leaves His servants [**you and me**] in charge to care for His house with the authority given to us.
 - Not knowing when the Master will return, what do we do? How do we act?
 - Could he return on our watch? Maybe. Maybe not. But should that determine how we operate in His absence?
 - "Each with his work" = what has God called you to do?
 - **Colossians 3:1-2, 17**, "If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth." ... "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."
 - FYI: The Great Commission is our calling in ALL that we do!
 - As a "doorkeeper": be awake, on guard, and alert as to who or what you let in to the Master's house.
 - **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**, "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body."
 - Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom [**2 Corinthians 3:17**].
 - **Galatians 5:13**, "For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another."

- **1 Peter 2:16**, “Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.”
- What is the fruit of the Spirit who indwelled us as believers? In context of what we’ve been discussing with the last days in mind...
 - Patience and Faithfulness [**Galatians 5:25**, “**keep in step with the Spirit**”]
 - Laziness and complacency will only make you more susceptible to attack.
 - **Matthew 24:43-46**, “But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect. “Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes.”

Verse 37

37 And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”

- STAY AWAKE!
 - **Mark 14:32-38**, “And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples, ‘Sit here while I pray.’ And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. And he said to them, ‘My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch.’ And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. And he said, ‘Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.’ And he came and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, ‘Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch one hour? Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.’”
 - **Ephesians 5:14-16**, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.’ Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.”

Response/Conclusion

- We are a ‘need to know’ people. However, we must be careful about what it is that we need to know.
- What matters? What’s important? What information is going to help you live the life Jesus wants for you *now*?!
 - Do not be deceived. Do not be alarmed. Be on your guard. Do not be anxious. Preach the gospel. Stay awake... because He is coming soon!

- Don't wait to 'see what happens'.

- **James 4:14**, "yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes."
- **John 14:6**, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."
- **Revelation 21:22-27**, "And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life."