

February 27-28, 2021

Title: The Servant King in Victory, Pt. 2: “Living in the End Times” – Mark 13:1-37

Big Idea: Be on guard and stay awake while you wait for the End.

What in the message stood out to you?

Read Mark 13:1-37. What questions do you have?

If you could, would you want to know when the end will come? Why or why not?

1. Be on guard against those who lead astray.

Read Mark 13:5-8 again. Why do you think Jesus starts by explaining what are not signs of the End?

What are the things Jesus lists as not being signs of the End? Does this surprise you? Why or why not?

How does calling these things “birth pains” help us understand them?

Read Romans 8:18-25. How do the promises in this passage help us live in the End Times?

What does it mean to be on guard against those who lead astray? How can you identify them?

2. Be on guard against persecution.

Read Mark 13:9-13 again. Who are the different groups that Jesus says will persecute His people?

Why do you think people find Jesus and His people so offensive?

In what ways do you see persecution happening in American today? Do you think it is getting worse? Why or why not?

Have you ever been persecuted? Explain.

Based on verses 9-13, why does Jesus allow the persecution of His people? What are His purposes for it? What are His promises to us in it?

Read 2 Timothy 3:12-13. What are your reactions to this passage? In what ways is persecution a test of genuine faith?

3. Be on guard against Antichrists.

Read Mark 13:14-23 and 28-31 again. What questions do you have?

Jesus' refers to the "abomination of desolation." Read Daniel 11:31-32. What is the "abomination that makes desolate?"

Daniel's prophecy has had multiple fulfillments (like "birth pains") over the years as "antichrists" have desecrated God's temple and God's people. Jesus seems to have in mind:

- The destruction of the temple within his own generation (which happened in 70 A.D.) and
- The attempted destruction of God's people (the Temple of the Holy Spirit) during the Great Tribulation.

Read 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12. What stands out to you from Paul's description of the "man of lawlessness" and the End Times?

Read 1 John 2:15-18. How should we live in the End Times according to these verses?

4. Be on guard and stay awake!

Read Mark 13:24-27 and 32:37 again. Since Jesus is the Son of God (fully divine), how would you explain Him not knowing the time of His return? How does Philippians 2:5-8 help the answer?

What is the point of Jesus' concluding parable in verses 34-37?

Read Acts 1:6-8. Why do you think Jesus does not want us to know when He will return? What are we supposed to be doing while we wait?

Oneness & Witness Takeaways: Four essential ingredients to "Watching" (Brian Hedges, Watchfulness):

- Wakefulness – Will you commit to being sober-minded, spiritually alert, and dressed in faith, hope and love?
- Attentiveness – Will you commit to paying daily attention to Christ, to the word of God, to prayer, to your own heart and ways, and to the mission of God?
- Vigilance – Will you commit to being on guard against the dangers of the world, the flesh and the devil?
- Expectancy – Will you commit to living in confident expectation of promises fulfilled by a faithful God?

Close in prayer for each other.