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| 1“Faithful Until The End” Mark 13:1-37 11/05/23INTRO: If you went to doctor, diagnosis, aggressive cancer, one year to live… what would you do? -I bet you would live the most God-honoring life possible  -reconcile relationships  -kill lingering sin -throw off entertainment  -read the bible, pray, communion with Father Rest of time, you will evangelize More love than pastor More zeal than evangelist More wise than a wiseman Amazing right based on one encounter with doctor?  | 2Similar way, eschatology functions like that Eschatology = study of last things Eschatology not: -theological musing -agree to disagreeBut to take seriously and literally like the beginning It is mean to wake us up out of our stupor, to calibrate us to faithful obedience, and to increase our love and devotion to God. Rev. 1:3 *“Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy and keep the things which are written in it, for the time is near.”* God wants you to understand the end so that you can be blessed in your walk with God (“blessed is he who reads”) and obedient (“and those who *keep* the things which are written in it”) |
| 3That is why title of sermon “Faithful Until The End” because Mark wants you to be faithful to God, to persevere until the end. BODY: -Jesus’ longest teaching in Mark  -A lot in here-Could be at least several sermons -But we will do it all in one sermon, fly over -It will be a longer sermon today -Couple of dangers to eschatology: 1. To be fixated on the end to such an extent that we live in fear – cabin survival mode, hermit, stockpiling 2. Other danger is to be indifferent because it doesn’t affect you currently. You don’t change how you live Mark is trying to prevent both from happening  | 4Mark is trying to motivate you to obedience in Jesus through revealing the end timesSo let’s dive into the future V. 13 Jesus comes out of the temple, and disciples say to Him *“Teacher, behold what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!”*Temple was massive, built by Herod, impressive, pride and glory of Israel  -Something like seven ancient wonders of the  world Hard to see it would be destroyed But Jesus replies V. 2 saying temple will be destroyedNot one stone left on another, exactly what happened  -70 AD Titus Vespasian destroyed Jerusalem  |
| 5Shocking to disciples, where would Messiah reign? First four disciples ask him privately: Matt. 24:4 adds *“when will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?”*Jesus replies don’t let anyone mislead you…-There have been many lunatics who claimed to be Christ Himself  -Especially as things get worse, many will prey on  the fears of those living and draw a followingThen there will be wars, rumors of wars As I speak: Russia-Ukraine, Israel-Hamas While these wars probably are leading to the big ones in Ezekiel, we must remind ourselves that history has always seen war.  -Only handful of years that history saw no wars Think about WWI and II | 6Many probably thought Christ would return because of how devastating it was  -53 million people died in WWII alone! -bloodiest war of all time But Jesus says, “Do not be frightened” because they must take place and that is not yet the end  -War happens because God is in control V. 8 = birth pangs/birth pains You know women what it’s like to give birth  -birth pains only get more intense and frequent  closer to baby being born Right now, it is mild compared to utter devastation of Great Tribulation V. 9: “Be on your guard”LSB = “But see to it yourselves” = more accurate = *horao* = “seeing”Same word as v. 5 “*See* to it no one misleads you” |
| 7Like guard on top of tower to see enemies far awayyou are to be watchful of time when they will hand you over and persecute you Just as Jesus was delivered over to courts, flogged, and stood before Pilate and Herod to testify of truth, so you will to John 15:20 “*Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A slave is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also.”* Now for many today like Africa/Middle East it is reality Many are literally killed and persecuted for their faith While America has not reached level of persecution and hatred, it will eventually get there  | 8It will get there because over time sin will be multiplied in people, and love of most will grow colder and colder. Matt. 24:10-12 *“And at that time many will fall away and will betray one another and hate one another. Many false prophets will arise and will deceive many. And because lawlessness is multiplied, most people’s love will grow cold.”*So you must be ready Make sure you are truly in the LordMake sure you are faithful to Him and doing everything to hasten the coming of the Lord Luke 21:34 *“But be on guard, so that your hearts will not be overcome with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of life, and that day will not come on you suddenly like a trap; for it will come upon all those who inhabit the face of all the earth.”* |
| 9Just like how flood overtook unsuspecting world in Noah’s day, so tribulation will come upon unsuspecting world Jesus v. 10 *“The gospel must first be preached to all the nations”*Gospel has come to majority of nations, but still hundreds if not thousands of ethnic and tribal groups unreached -They don’t have a Bible in their language This is why we still have missionaries God may not have called you as missionary, but still called to be missionary to your immediate area Starts with family and friends, your neighbors, and your town Read V. 11 -Notice that V. 11 comes right after V. 10  | 10Proclaiming the gospel will bring persecution *“All who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution”* Word for proclaiming = *keruso* = herald “Hear ye, Hear ye”Evangelism is not evangelism without words “Preach the gospel, and if necessary use words” = lie from Satan You don’t preach the gospel with a moral and upright life (important as that is to our Christian witness)  -That is not the gospel Actions don’t proclaim the gospel, words do Romans 10:14 *“How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher?”* |
| 11Then in verse 17 Paul says that *“faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.”*Christ the Lord says to not worry when they hand you over When time comes, Christ will fill you with His Holy Spirit to show them His glory Acts 4:8 *“Peter filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers and elders of the people…”*Acts 7:55 *“Stephen being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.”*Don’t forget cloud of witnesses Hebrews 12 cheering you on God has shown He is faithful in giving courage in the midst of adversity time and time again  | 12In addition to that make sure you have a pure conscience so that it doesn’t accuse you of hypocrisy Paul before Sanhedrin Acts 23: *“Brothers, I have lived my life in all good conscience before God up to this day.”*Acts 24 Paul before Felix the Roman governor:*“I also do my best to maintain always a conscience without fault both before God and before men.”*Other words, you are called to live life in such a way that it is unmistakable what you are being persecuted for 1 Peter 3: *“having a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who disparage your good conduct in Christ will be put to shame.”*God designed conscience as tool to convict not only you of sin but others of theirs  |
| 13Power or conscience can be seen in Pilate when Jesus stood before Him Pilate felt remorse for crucifying Jesus because he was innocent of accusation of not paying taxes to Caesar and misleading the nation He felt remorse, but not repentanceHe “suppressed the truth in unrighteousness” But for others, God has used conscience of His faithful ones to bring persecutors to Christ Not only persecuted in public sphere but private sphere: in the home: *“brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and have them put to death.”*Gospel is so offensive and divisive that family members will murder each other  | 14*“I have come not to bring peace but a sword to divide father against son, mother against daughter, etc.”*There was a time in America where Christianity was respectable…not anymore We are getting worse and worseGospel is considered intolerant hate speech Neo-paganism, paganism 2.0 we are not evolving but devolving into Noah’s time and Roman times Which is why baffling people hold to Post-millennialism Christ returns after a golden age and prosperity We believe in Pre-millennialism that Christ comes before the millennium to institute His 1000 year reign after the tribulation Postmillennialists = non-existent when WWI and WWII broke out  |
| 15Shattered Postmillennial framework Read V. 13“endures to the end, will be saved” does not mean works salvation Simply saying those who are the elect will persevere and be faithful demonstrating that their salvation was genuine Read V. 14 What is ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION?Reference back to Daniel 9-11 (lit. Matthew ties ABOMINATION to Daniel) -Foretells future time when something wicked and abominable before God is placed on the holy place Seleucid King Antiochus Epiphanes 167 BC slayed pig and forced priests to eat it as punishment for Jewish rebellion, killed many Jews | 16Definitely fit much of criteria, but Jesus is speaking in the present of the future, that was past Destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD? -Yes and No Partial fulfillment but final fulfillment still future The problem: V. 19 *“tribulation such as has not occurred since the beginning of creation which God created until now, and never will”*True that people will flee when that happens, but cataclysmic signs accompany it which is during the end time EXAMPLES of partial to full fulfillment John the Baptist = Elijah to come? = Yes and No Malachi 4:5-6 YesNo = great and terrible day hasn’t arrive yet  |
| 17ANOTHER EXAMPLE: Turn to Acts 2:17-21 (read) Peter preach Pentecost sermon quoting Joel 2 VV. 17-18 = fulfilled = speaking in tongues VV. 19-21 = future = cosmic signs Mark isn’t inventing something new Turn back to Mark 13 ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION Notice “let the reader understand” Not cryptic statement but saying current reader is to understand this is still future that AD 70 destruction is only partial fulfillment awaiting final fulfillment Only taste of what is to come Read VV. 20-27 | 18Not possible for elect to be deceived but will be powerful influence For unbelievers: 2 Thess. 2 God will send a: “*deluding influence so that they believe what is false, in order that they all may be judged who did not believe in the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.”**“SUN WILL BE DARKENED AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT AND THE STARS WILL BE FALLING and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.”*God who upholds all things by the word of His power will let go and allow the planets to fly out of orbit chaotically they will come crashing to earth Unmistakable act of God to point that that men will faint from fear in those days. Remember 2013, meteor that struck Russia When it struck: 1000 + people injured 3000 buildings damaged, over a million sq ft glass shattered  |
| 19Do you know how fast it was going? 42,690 MPH. That is beyond our comprehension Just imagine during countless of those meteors crashing constantly during tribulation. V. 26 They will see Jesus, Son of Man on clouds with great power and glory = Daniel 7I don’t think these will be ordinary clouds on a blue sky but shekinah glory cloud in the OT“Elect” are not raptured believers because this is return of Christ in Rev. 19 Include: -144,000 witnesses of Rev. 7:4 -Their converts -Converts of angelic preachers They also include OT saints and resurrection from grave  | 20V. 28 Illustration of this with fig tree When you see these things, know that Jesus is right at the door V. 30 *“Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place…”*Not immediate generation but generation that will experience these Can’t mean current gen. because world wide catastrophes haven’t happened yet But…Jesus will not pass away, earth will melt and pass away with intense fiery heat but His word will not pass away All those who are united to Jesus and His Word will not pass away V. 32 No one but Father knows  |
| 21That is to say be careful of “newspaper exegesis” where you try to match what’s happening in news to biblical prophecy Read V. 33 He could come today or in 50 years, we don’t know So we must be like doorkeeper to protect home V. 37 “Stay on the alert!” = repeated twice for emphasis Live every day as if Christ is coming back today So Christian you have just received the diagnosis of the worldThis world has an expiration date and time is ticking It will not last forever, heaven and earth will pass away Will you be unashamed like Apostle Paul before governors and kings and have lived with good conscience? | 22May knowing the end motivate you to live fully for Christ in the presentKnow that Christ wins in the end over all rulers and authoritiesBut…for you who haven’t placed your faith in Christ God’s revelation of end will not be blessing to you but your curse The end will be your condemnation, not your justification Despair, not your joy Danger to all this you might think when tribulation strikes you will then turn from your sins and trust in Christ Or you may think to put off salvation until your death bed Don’t do it! |
| 231. Presuming on God that He will grant you another day in life No guarantee from God that He will make you live to ripe old age He could take your life this very instant 2. That thought is presuming that your heart will somehow grow softer over time to the gospel No, the more you allow sin to run rampant in life, the more it will become harderIt will be much harder later in life to turn to Christ than earlier in your life. Turn to Christ while your heart is soft today In addition to that, don’t assume you will turn to Christ automatically when disaster strikes Book of Revelation reveals 6th angel blows trumpet demonic hord of plagues kills third of mankind  | 242.5 billion people will be dead! How does rest of mankind respond? Revelation 9:20-21, *“And the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, so as not to worship demons, and the idols of gold and of silver and of brass and of stone and of wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk. And they did not repent of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their sexual immorality nor of their thefts.”*Despite God’s kindness in not completely wiping out humanity, man will still be so hardened in their heart Like Pharaoh of Exodus Ten Plagues and Pharaoh’s heart was as hard as a rock  |
| 25Don’t put off salvation until tomorrow or until your death bed Every passing day that you don’t trust in Christ will increase your unbelief to Him. Your heart will only grow harder and harder to His love Acts 17:30-31 *“God is now commanding men that everyone everywhere should repent, because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He determined, having furnished proof to all by raising Him from the dead.”*And let me tell you that the suffering from even the unspeakable horrors of Tribulation that you see in the book of Revelation will be nothing compared to the eternal suffering in hell reserved for all those who reject Christ  | 26The wrath of the Lamb will be so terrifying that men will call on the rocks to crush them to hide from the wrath of the Lamb Don’t let that be true of you today. Tomorrow is not guaranteed.Turn to Christ to flee from wrath to come Run into the care of His arms  |