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| 1  “Faithful Until The End”  Mark 13:1-37  11/05/23  INTRO:  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? | 2  Similar way, eschatology functions like that  Eschatology = study of last things  Eschatology not:  -theological musing  -agree to disagree  But 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”) |
| 3  That 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 | 4  Mark is trying to motivate you to obedience in Jesus through revealing the end times  So 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 destroyed  Not one stone left on another, exactly what happened  -70 AD Titus Vespasian destroyed Jerusalem |
| 5  Shocking 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 following  Then 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 | 6  Many 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” |
| 7  Like guard on top of tower to see enemies far away  you 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 | 8  It 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 Lord  Make 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.”* |
| 9  Just 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 | 10  Proclaiming 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?”* |
| 11  Then 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 | 12  In 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 |
| 13 Power 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 repentance  He “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 worse  Gospel 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 |
| 15  Shattered 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 | 16  Definitely 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  Yes  No = great and terrible day hasn’t arrive yet |
| 17  ANOTHER 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 | 18  Not 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 |
| 19  Do 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 7  I 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 | 20  V. 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 |
| 21  That 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 world  This 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? | 22  May knowing the end motivate you to live fully for Christ in the present  Know that Christ wins in the end over all rulers and authorities  But…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! |
| 23  1. 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 harder  It 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 | 24  2.5 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 |
| 25  Don’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 | 26  The 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 |