

MARK

READ ALOUD: MARK 13:1-37

Pursue

Synopsis & Context:

Mark 13:1-37 is a complex and often debated text. Some scholars believe Jesus's words about the end times are only historical, pointing to the temple's destruction in 70 AD. Some scholars believe Jesus's words to be eschatological, meaning His second coming. Lastly, others hold that Jesus's words are speaking about both the destruction of the temple in 70 AD *and* Jesus's second coming simultaneously - the destruction of the temple foreshadowing what is to come when Jesus returns.

***As a group, be sure to begin by simply reading Jesus's words out loud. Don't assume everyone has read or remembers what Jesus says in these verses.*

- **What do you find encouraging in what Jesus says here? Is there anything you find worrying?**
- **Based on an eschatological reading of these verses, what do you think it means to be "on guard" with regard to the second coming of Christ?**

These verses in Chapter 13 also serve as a connection point to what will take place in just a few verses. Jesus often spoke of *his body* as the temple that would be destroyed and rebuilt in three days.

- **Read Mark 13:35-37.**
 - **Picture now, the evening in the Garden of Gethsemane. What does Jesus repeatedly tell his disciples to do?** (Read Mark 14:32-42 if you need a reminder.)
 - **In Mark 14:40, what do his disciples do when Jesus is arrested that night?** (Read Mark 14:50 if you need a reminder.) **What does Jesus say people will do in Mark 13:14?**
 - **In Mark 14:66-72 Peter denies Jesus three times. By what time did Jesus say Peter would do this?** (There is a particular sound Jesus mentions Peter will hear.)
 - Jesus is delivered to be crucified in the morning, and by Mark 15:33, darkness spreads over all the land as he predicted (Mark 13:24). **Read Mark 15:38. What is this (the curtain in the temple tearing) a symbol of?**

What we must come to realize is that we are not waiting for the end times. We are already in the end times! They began at the first coming of Christ and will culminate at his second coming!

- **In what ways do you sometimes find yourself drowsy or sleepy with regard to the reality of Christ's coming?**

Practice & Proclaim Pray with One Another

Take time as a group to pray!

- Pray that the Holy Spirit will help us stay awake and keep watch for Jesus's second coming!
- Pray for those in the group who feel drowsy or sleepy in their faith.
- Pray for men, women, and children you know who do not yet know Jesus to come to faith soon.
- Pray for opportunities to share the gospel with others around you.
- Pray for Jesus to come back soon!