

The Signs of the Times Part 4

Mark 13:24-37

Rich O'Toole

10/29/23

Small Group Discussion

Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

I. Coming in the clouds. Mark 13:24-27

Revelation 6:16 and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the _____ of the Lamb! NKJV

- They will see a great earthquake, the sun darkening, the moon appearing as blood, the stars falling from heaven, the sky being ripped open, and _____ mountain and island will be moved.

Mark 13:27 are the remnant Jews who escaped to the Rock City of Petra after the Abomination of Desolation was revealed, and _____ who came to faith during the Tribulation and survived.

II. The ripe figs. Mark 13:28-31

When they see these signs and wonders described in Mark 13, they can know for sure the _____ is coming.

- The nation of Israel is at the _____ of the End Times.

When the Lord makes a promise, even if it seems impossible, we should believe Him. God never changes and He is _____.

- The same generation that will experience the Great Tribulation will also witness the _____ of Christ.

III. No one knows. Mark 13:32

1. Mark 13:32 could mean no one _____ to the Abomination of Desolation can know the day and hour of Jesus' return.
2. Mark 13:32 could mean those who live through these signs will not know when the End Times _____ starts.
3. How could Jesus, as God in the flesh, be _____ of the time of His own return? *Philippians 2:5-8*

When Jesus left His heavenly throne, He did not empty Himself of _____, but He took upon Himself the limitations of a man.

IV. Practical Application (watch). Mark 13:33-37

In proper context, we know Jesus is talking to people who are _____ Saints, those who will receive Christ sometime after the rapture of the Church.

- The readiness Jesus is speaking of here is not a logistical readiness like a homeowner, but a _____ readiness.

First and foremost: No one can be ready to meet the Lord without receiving _____ of sin, which comes from the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

- We must rely on the Holy Spirit to do all these things through us, so that we are not trying to live out our relationship with Christ in our own _____.

1. What is your opinion of when Jesus will return to earth? How important do you think it is to discern the exact time He will return?
2. In what ways does life get discouraging sometimes as we wait for Christ's return? Are there parts of the end times, as you understand prophecy, that frighten you? If there are, what are they? (Wiersbe)
John 14:1-6, John 16:33, 1 Thessalonians 5:13-14
3. Read *Mark 13:24-27*. Who sees Jesus when He comes during the rapture? Who sees Jesus at His physical second coming?
1 Corinthians 15:51-54, 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18, 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10, Revelation 6:12-17
4. Read *Mark 13:28-31*. Who does the fig tree represent? Who is the generation Jesus refers to in this passage?
Psalms 119:89-90, Jeremiah 8:13, Ezekiel 37:11-13, Micah 4:4
5. Discuss the three interpretations found within point III. of the sermon note sheet.
6. Read *Philippians 2:5-8* and *Mark 13:32*. If Jesus is God the Son, why didn't He know the time of His own return?
Mark 2:9, Mark 4:41, John 5:18, John 5:30, Hebrews 4:15
7. What instructions does Jesus give in this chapter to those of us who are not immersed in terrible tribulation? (Wiersbe)
8. Discuss the Practical Application of the sermon about watchfulness.
Matthew 24:42, Luke 21:36, 1 Thessalonians 5:2-3