



Do you see these buildings?

Mark 13:1-13

February 17, 2019

In today's passage, the disciples are impressed by Herod's Temple, but Jesus prophesies the destruction of the Temple (and Jerusalem which occurred in 70 A.D.) and other end-time events. He doesn't provide a calendar, but rather instructs His disciples, and us, in how to respond to signs of the times.

These signs are:

- the success of false Christs (Mark 13:5–6)
- nations in conflict (Mark 13:7–8a)
- natural disturbances (Mark 13:8b)
- religious persecutions (Mark 13:9–13)ⁱ

Read Mark 13:1-13.

[Q] What do the disciples want to know in verse 4? Why do you think Jesus does not answer their question?

Jesus includes five commands in His sermon. Let's see how each applies today.

1. See that no one leads you astray | Mark 13:5-6

[Q] How can we stand firm against false messiahs according to the following passages?

Colossians 2:6-8

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. ⁸See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

1 John 4:1-6

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. ⁴Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

2. Do not be alarmed | Mark 13:7-8

[Q] According to Romans 8:35-39, what is the secret to remaining calm in the face of alarming events?

[Q] In what way is death not the worst thing that can happen to someone?

3. Be on your guard | Mark 13:9-10

[Q] Why are we tempted to relax our guard? What would be good preparation for persecution? For bearing witness for Jesus' sake?

4. and 5. Do not be anxious... but say... | Mark 13:11

A notable example of the power of the Holy Spirit's promise is the account of Stephen in Acts. Read Acts 6:8-15; 7:54-55.

[Q] What is the antidote to anxiety or fear in the face of persecution?

Read James 1:12:

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

[Q] What is the reward for endurance?

...the one who endures to the end will be saved. Mark 13:13b

[Q] Brandon Sanford summarizes our passage this way:

"Focus on Christ's agenda, alert to Christ's promises, and living in light of them."

How will you do that this week?

Pray

ⁱ Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*