

What We Must Be While Messiah's Gone

Mark 13.1-37

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Telos: Jesus teaches you what you should be like and what you should do in the Age of Distress that precedes his return.



Introduction

- A. Many people today are interested in what will happen in the future.
- B. However, Jesus does not emphasize the details or timing of his 2nd coming.

I. Be Aware Of The Great Change Before Jesus Returns (13.1-4)

- A. This whole discourse starts because of an almost boastful remark by the disciples.
- B. Jesus' reply indicates that all that they hold dear ***will be destroyed!!***
- C. How would you respond if you found out that what you held dearest would soon be destroyed?
- D. So, the first sign of Jesus return is that ***the old era must pass & a new era must dawn.***

II. Don't Be Shocked (13.5-8)

- A. What are the signs of this new age?
- B. These are the *beginning of birth pangs*.
- C. Because of this and the descriptions that follow, I believe that Jesus goes on to describe *the age in which we now live*.

III. BE ON GUARD (13.9-23)

- A. Notice the “brackets” in [vs. 9 & 23](#).
- B. For the immediate disciples – be on guard because all that you hold dear will be destroyed ([vs. 14-19](#)).
- C. Be on guard because of persecution ([vs. 9-13](#)).
- D. Be on your guard because of all the false Christs that will appear ([vs. 20-23](#)).
- E. Are you ready?

IV. BE WATCHFUL (13.24-37)

- A. Now, after all those things happen, what do you need to look for?
- B. With that in mind, what must be true of us?
- C. Jesus does not want to find us sleeping.

Conclusion

- A. What will this “**Return Work Ethic**” look like?
- B. We need to spend less time trying to figure out how contemporary events fit some prophetic scheme.

- C. We must be on guard, be watchful and serve Christ.