

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching out to leaders who can change the world.

Jan 2012

LESSON 14 – GOD’S SERVANT – FORETELLS THE FUTURE

INTRODUCTION

Why are many people easily impressed by buildings?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Note: *This strange and rather gloomy chapter is often known as the ‘Markan apocalypse’ and yet there is no weird imagery like that of Daniel or Revelation. The passage is not totally obsessed with the events of the end-time. The writer is more concerned to warn against panic, to point out that there will be a series of events but everything is in the control of God. The passage reiterates the basic Markan theme that discipleship involves suffering.¹ The temple stones were white marble 67 feet long, seven feet high and nine feet wide. Titus, the conqueror of Jerusalem decided to save the temple as an ornament to the Empire, but for some reason his soldiers disregarded his order. The Romans brought their standards (flags) into the temple and offered sacrifices to them. When the first signs appeared that Jerusalem was going to be surrounded by a Roman force, practically all Christians fled the city to Paella (trans-Jordanian town) until Jerusalem was destroyed.*

Read Mark 13:1-4

1. What did Jesus want to impress upon his disciples?

Read Mark 13:5-27

2. What was the opening warning of the prophetic discourse? (5)
3. What events might deceive the disciples into thinking that the end times had come? (5-8)
4. How are the disciples to handle the trials that they will encounter? Who will help? (11)
5. What are some signs that the destruction of Jerusalem would be near? The end of the age?
6. How will the Son of Man come? Will the second coming of Christ be as historical event as His first coming was? (26 – 27)
7. What will happen in connection with His Second Coming?

Read Mark 13:28-37

8. Who alone knows the exact time of the Second Coming?
9. Why is the end being delayed?
10. How can we accept the link between discipleship and suffering?
11. What are the most exciting things to you concerning His Second Coming?
12. What difference does it make what we do during His absence?

APPLICATION

- How do these verses provide comfort for you? Discomfort?
- What are you doing now to fulfill the warning of verses 34-37?

“Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come.

Mark 13:33

As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be with the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the arc.

Matt 24:37-38

¹ McFadyen, P. (1997). *Open Door on Mark: His gospel explored* (88–89). London: Triangle.