

“Near – At The Doors!”
Mark 13:24-37
11/10/24
Message 35

Introduction

- Title Of The Message: “Near – At The Doors!”

- **When is Jesus Coming Back**

- **Did You Know That I can predict the exact date that Jesus will return!**
 - Are you READY?...
 - It's Simple
 - What we will do is use the **Fig Tree** v. 28 and **Generation** v.30
 - The Fig Tree
 - Represents the nation of Israel
 - Which “Budded” when Israel
 - Became a Nation Again - On May 14, 1948
 - A Generation
 - Biblical is 40 years...
 - So You add 40 years to 1948 =
 - That tells you Jesus will return before the end of 1988!
 - It sounds silly now...

- Some guy wrote a pamphlet called 88 Reasons for the Rapture in 1988
 - It was ALL the rage among Christians in the late 1970's
 - Right up until New Year's Day 1989
 - BUT Even then...
 - Some people wouldn't throw in the towel
 - Then he revised it in 89, 93 and 94
 - **PLEASE NOTE**
 - Jesus DID NOT TELL us to make Predictions about His Return
 - He Told us be READY
 - Take Heed – Watch – Pray

Mark 13:33 (NKJV)

33 *Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is.*

▪ So Prophecy SHOULD Have

- A Purifying Effect in our lives
- Give us a Sense of Urgency
- Makes us bold in speaking to the lost
- It helps us keep a light touch on the things of this world
- Make sure we're NOT ASLEEP in the LIGHT

• **NOW Sadly a lot of Christians are NOT interested in Bible prophecy**

- **Some of the Reasons**

- **Divisive**

- Illustration

- I know of a church in the valley the refuses to take a stand on eschatology – they see it as divisive – so many opinions it's not worth it

- **Doom & Gloom - Negative**

- Illustration

- Another well-known pastor Said
 - This young generation does not want to hear about prophecy – they just started to live their lives and were talking about the end – it so depressing

- **Or we can't figure it out, so why bother**

- Some see it Literal some see it Allegory

- **Still others have grown WEARY**

- Waiting for the Lord to come
 - They have been saying that for over 2000 years and YET He has not come...
 - Peter has something to say about that...

- **Whatever the REASONS are - For NOT Studying Prophecy**

- It has believers looking at the –

- WORLD

- Rather than

- LOOKING UP to Heaven
- Please KEEP Looking UP
- Spend your LIFE on things that matter – NOT WASTE it of things that don't

• **Review - Mark 13 –**

- **A portion of Scripture known as the OLIVET DISCOURSE**
 - Also found in Matthew 24 & Luke 21
- **Week One - “Take Heed, Watch & Pray Pt. 1”**
 - **The Situation vs. 1-4**
 - The Situation that promoted the disciple's question
 - Just finished answering all the questions –
 - Gave an Illustration / Comparison of the scribes and Widow
 - The Disciples are impressed with the Temple
 - Jesus says Not one stone will be left upon another
 - Which took place in AD 70 with Rome destroying the Temple
 - **The Signs vs. 5-23**
 - We Broke the Signs up into 2 Sections
 - **1st Pre-Trouble vs. 3-13**
 - Take heed that no one deceives you v. 5-6
 - Wars and rumors of wars: v. 7-8

- Earthquakes in various places... Famines v. 8
- Persecution
 - For they will deliver you up to councils v. 9
 - The gospel must first be preached to all the nations v. 10
 - When they arrest you and deliver you up... v. 11
 - Brother will betray brother to death v. 12-13a
 - He who endures to the end shall be saved v. 13b

- **2nd The Tribulation Period vs. 14-23**

- PLEASE note
 - The tone changes – it moves to a Jewish Tone
 - The church is gone –
 - The Tribulation Period is know as a time of Jacob's Trouble

Jeremiah 30:7 (NKJV)

7 Alas! For that day is great, So that none is like it; And it is the time of Jacob's trouble, But he shall be saved out of it.

- In which God' finishes His Everlasting Covenant with Israel
- **Week Two - "Take Heed, Watch & Pray Pt. 2"**
 - **The Tribulation Period vs. 14-23**

- 1st Spoken Of In Daniel v. 14b
- 2nd The Abomination of Desolation v. 14a&c
- 3rd Jesus warns of what to do v. 14d
- 4th Let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes vv. 15-18
- 5th Coming after the abomination of desolation: great tribulation vv. 19-23

• ***Now This Morning We Will Look At 3 POWERFUL TRUTHS To “Near-At The Doors!”***

- The Nature Of His Return vv. 24-27
- The Nearness Of His Return vv. 28-31
- The Necessity To BE READY vv. 32-37

The Nature Of His Return vv. 24-27

• ***First: The Wonders In Heaven vv. 24-25***

- ***1st In those days, after that tribulation v. 24a***

Mark 13:24 (NKJV)

24 ***“But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light;***

▪ **Those Days**

- He Describes the Events of vv. 6-23

▪ **That Tribulation**

- Refers to the Great Tribulation Jesus just spoke of vv. 14-23

▪ **So this means**

- What Jesus is about to describe (vv. 24–27)
 - Will occur immediately at the end of the future tribulation period
 - What Will Occur?
- **2nd The sun will be darkened vs. 24b-25**

Mark 13:24–25 (NKJV)

24 *“But in those days, after that tribulation, **the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light;***
25 ***the stars of heaven will fall, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.***

- **Sun Darkened**
 - No Sun
- **The Moon**
 - Has NO light of it's own
 - So NO SUN – NO LIGHT
- **SO RIGHT Before His Return**
 - The world will be wracked by cosmic catastrophes
 - We Can See this is Revelation 6-19
- This kind of cosmic calamity is described in Many Old Testament passages
 - Isaiah 13:9-11
 - Amos 8:9-10
 - Zephaniah 1:14-15.

Zephaniah 1:14–16 (NKJV)

14 The great day of the LORD is near; It is near and hastens quickly. The noise of the day of the LORD is bitter; There the mighty men shall cry out.

15 That day is a day of wrath, A day of trouble and distress, A day of devastation and desolation, A day of darkness and gloominess, A day of clouds and thick darkness,

16 A day of trumpet and alarm Against the fortified cities And against the high towers.

- Ezekiel 32:7-9

Ezekiel 32:7–9 (NKJV)

7 When I put out your light, I will cover the heavens, and make its stars dark; I will cover the sun with a cloud, And the moon shall not give her light.

8 All the bright lights of the heavens I will make dark over you, And bring darkness upon your land,' Says the Lord GOD.

9 'I will also trouble the hearts of many peoples, when I bring your destruction among the nations, into the countries which you have not known.

- Joel 2:30-31

Joel 2:30–31 (NKJV)

30 "And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke.

31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.

Second: The Way In Which He Will Come v. 26

Mark 13:26 (NKJV)

26 Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.

- Jesus will return to earth in the same manner in which He left it

- (Acts 1:9-11)

- The Clouds

- Exodus 25 God Dwelt with Israel

- Shekinah Glory – Cloud By Day
- Other Scriptures

Psalm 104:3 (NKJV)

3 He lays the beams of His upper chambers in the waters, Who makes the clouds His chariot, Who walks on the wings of the wind,

Revelation 1:7 (NKJV)

7 Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.

Revelation 19:11–14 (NKJV)

11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.

12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.

13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.

- Revelation 19:8

- The church is described in heaven as being clothed in white linen.
- I believe that the army on horseback will include us.

• **Third: The Work Of His Angels v. 27**

Mark 13:27 (NKJV)

27 And then He will send His angels, and gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest part of earth to the farthest part of heaven.

- **1st He will send His angels, and gather together His elect**

- **When Jesus returns to this earth after that tribulation**
 - He will come with the saints in heaven
 - To gather those who have come to Jesus during the tribulation and have survived.
- **The “Elect” will include**
 - The 144,000 Jewish witnesses (Rev. 7:4)
 - Their converts (Rev. 7:9)
 - The converts of the angelic preachers (Rev. 14:6).

The Nearness Of His Return vv. 28-31

• **First: The Fig Tree vv. 28-29**

- **1st Now learn this parable from the fig tree:**

Mark 13:28–29 (NKJV)

28 *“Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender, and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near.*

29 *So you also, when you see these things happening, know that it is near—at the doors!*

- **Context**
 - The fig tree has a regular pattern
 - The leaves appear and then summer follows.
 - When you see the leaves, you know summer is near!
 - Same with Judgment
 - When you see the Abomination of Desolation – Appear

- Then Jesus' Coming is near
- Daniel 12:11 1,290 days
- PLEASE NOTE
 - The FIG Tree is a SYMBOL of Israel
- **2nd The fig tree often is a symbol for the nation of Israel**
 - So A lot of Bible teachers teach
 - The Budding of the Fig Tree
 - Meant the return of Israel to her land in 1948
 - That Generation
 - Will be here when Jesus comes back
 - This is where we get the info I started with
 - NOW As remarkable a fulfillment of prophecy Israel's return was
 - That is NOT what the budding of the fig tree mean here
- **3rd Luke Gives us some more Insight**

Luke 21:29 (NKJV)

29 Then He spoke to them a parable: *"Look at the fig tree, and all the trees.*

▪ **AND ALL THE TREES**

- He was using the budding of trees as a General Illustration
 - Without any direct reference to the return of the nation of Israel

- **So Simply PUT...**

- He was saying that when leaves sprout on a tree
 - You know that something else is right around the corner –
 - Summer and the fruit is going to appear
- When you see the signs Jesus mentioned
 - Then his return is right around the corner!
 - The Lord will return to establish the kingdom on earth

- **Second: The Teaching About the Generation v. 30**

- **1st This generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place**

Mark 13:30 (NKJV)

30 *Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place.*

- **There are dozens – of interpretations for the use of the word generation**
 - Here are 2 simple meanings that fit the context
- **1st A Group of people who live at the same time, during the same age.**
 - Generation refers to the People Alive at the time these signs occur.
 - It's a promise that
 - Even though it will seem like the end of the world
 - The extinction of humanity

- The events unfolding for those seven years of the Great Tribulation are under God's control and will lead to the glorious return of Jesus to make the earth both right and righteous.

▪ **2nd A Race Of People**

- Like to the Nation of Israel as a particular ethnic group within the human race.
- If that is the case,
 - It's a promise that, even though nations try to exterminate the Jews
 - God will keep them alive and fulfill His promises to them.
 - Especially in the last 3½ years of the Great Tribulation
 - The devil will be making every effort to kill every last Jew.
 - But God will miraculously preserve a remnant who will recognize Jesus as their Lord at His return

• **Third: The Trustworthiness Of God's Word v. 31**

- **1st Heaven and earth will pass away**

Mark 13:31 (NKJV)

31 *Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.*

▪ **Heaven and earth will pass away.**

- Jesus made the amazing claim of uttering eternal words.
- He will make it pass away NOT Climate change

- My words will by no means pass away.

- This is enough to establish His claim to DEITY

- **2nd Application - Build your life around what lasts**

Matthew 7:24–27 (NKJV)

24 “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:

25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.

26 “But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand:

27 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”

- Jesus was saying that we have a CHOICE in Life

- A CHOICE

- How we are going to build our life

- A choice of building on something that is permanent or something that will fail.

- Hear my heart

- If ALL your living for is this life the things of this world

- YOU ARE BUILDING on the WRONG FOUNDATION

• Fourth: The Time v. 32

- **1st That day and hour no one knows:**

Mark 13:32 (NKJV)

32 “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

▪ **Please NOTE**

- So much time is spent on this from the point that Jesus says
 - He does not KNOW
- They Say
 - Well since He did not know –
 - He can't be God...
 - Or when He came He gave up being God when He became a man
- So first...
 - YES - He is God
 - YES - He gave up certain rights to Deity BUT always remains God
 - He was FULLY God and Man at the same time
- To SPEND SO much time on this issue is a WASTE
 - A WASTE of the Context –
 - A WASTE to understanding the great perspective

▪ **This VERSE MEANS**

- We must take heed, because we face the danger of being unprepared!
- OF Wasting our time

The Necessity To BE READY vs. 32-37

- **First: The Reason vs. 33**

- **1st Take Heed, Watch & Pray v. 33**

Mark 13:33 (NKJV)

33 *Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is.*

- This is the KEY
- **Take Heed**
 - English – Heed
 - Pay attention to; take notice of.
 - Greek: Blépsō
 - Means: To SEE
 - To be able to see, i.e., to have the faculty of sight, and as spoken of the blind, to recover sight.
 - In the sense of to perceive as with the eyes meaning to discern, to understand
 - Metaphorically
 - To perceive with the mind, be aware of, observe
 - **Are you SEEING what is taking place in our world right now**
- **We must Watch**
 - Greek: grēgoreúō – Name Gregory
 - Means: To arise, arouse. To watch, to refrain from sleep. It was transferred in meaning from the physical to the moral religious sphere (Matt. 26:38, 40, 41).

- Anyone who watches is not
 - Caught by surprise.
 - People are not ready because they fail to watch.
- The emphasis couldn't be clearer:
 - Of that day and hour no one knows (Mark 13:32).
 - You do not know when the time is (Mark 13:33).
 - You do not know when the master of the house is coming (Mark 13:35).
- **Pray**
 - Luke Tells us to PRAY
 - That we may be found worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass (Luke 21:36).

• **Second: Our Responsibility vv. 34-37**

Mark 13:34–37 (NKJV)

34 *It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch.*

35 *Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming—in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning—*

36 *lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping.*

37 *And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!"*

- **1st Explain The Illustration - It is like a man going to a far country**

- Jesus is like the man going to a far country, who left three things to his servants...

- His House
- His Authority
- His Work
- The traveling man also appoints a doorkeeper to keep watch.
 - porter – thuroros (“door” + “watch”)
 - A doorkeeper, porter; a male or female janitor
 - One of the servants had the job of watching the door.
 - A porter (doorkeeper) was the night watchman.
 - He not only watched the door for intruders
 - But watched for the Master to return.
 - He may return at any time
 - Does not want to find his servants sleeping.
 - The point of it all: Watch!
- **Think of what Jesus has left you:**
 - His House = His Church
 - The church belongs to Jesus, but He entrusts it to each one of us.
 - His Authority
 - We are to live and serve in the authority of Jesus, and responsibility is always coupled with authority.
 - His Work

- Each servant has his work to do.
- We aren't responsible for someone else's work
- But we certainly are responsible for ours.

○ **First Application**

▪ **At the End of the Olivet Discourse**

- Both Matthew and Luke give Similar Instructions

▪ **1st Matthew 24**

- Matthew very Detail

○ Matthew 24:36-44

- Times of Noah
- 2 Men in a Field, One is taken and one is left – “Rapture?”

○ Matthew 24:45-25:1-30

- Blessed is the servant who is found working
- Parable of the Brides
- Parable of the Talents

▪ **2nd Luke 21**

- How Then SHOULD WE LIVE

Luke 21:34–35 (NKJV)

34 *“But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly.”*

35 *For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth.*

- **1st Carousing**

- Jesus mentioned Carousing and Drunkenness together
- Literally refers to the hangover that comes after a time of intoxication

- **2nd Drunkenness**

- Refers, of course, to being drunk
 - Means...
 - Unprepared
 - Weighed down

- **3rd Cares**

- This is worry and anxiety about daily life
- He put it on an equal par with carousing
- Fear, stress, worry, and anxiety are just as damaging to your spiritual heart as carousings we normally consider sin
- Means:
 - Unprepared
 - Weighed down

- **4th Snares**

- A Snare – and emphasized the importance of readiness.

- **5th Watch & Pray**

Luke 21:36 (NKJV)

36 Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."

- While we are taking heed, watching,
 - We should be "praying"
- WHY - Worthy to Escape
 - Not go through BUT Escape
 - Pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape those things that will come to pass: .
- **Second Application**
 - Pre-Trib rapture
 - The Rapture before Tribulation

1 Thessalonians 4:16–17 (NKJV)

16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

- Reason Why I Believe the Bible teaches a Pre-Trib rapture
 - 1st Jesus said the Faithful would escape the Tribulation
 - Again Luke 21:36

Revelation 3:10 (NKJV)

10 *Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.*

- Jesus didn't ask us to pray to "endure" the Tribulation
 - But to escape it.
 - The faithful church is kept from the tribulation, the great time of "testing" that is coming upon the earth.
- Please NOTE
 - This doesn't mean that we won't go through difficult times.
- 2nd The Element of Surprise.
 - Have you noticed the Emphases on
 - The suddenness of the second coming.
 - That's the whole point of our passage today

Mark 13:32–33 (NKJV)

32 *"But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.*

33 *Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is.*

Matthew 24:44 (NKJV)

44 *Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.*

- But if we see the Abomination of Desolation
- We Know that we ONLY have 1290 days left

- If the Rapture came at the end, right before Jesus comes back, there would be no surprise, we'd all be marking our calendars.
- So we are seeing 2 Different Comings
 - One for His Bride = Church
 - Second for Judgment

Closing

- Take Heed – Watch – Pray

Mark 13:33 (NKJV)

33 *Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is.*

- **Show Pic – Current Temple Mt.**
- **Prophecy SHOULD Have**
 - **A Purifying Effect in our lives**
 - **Give us a Sense of Urgency**
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 - **It helps us keep a light touch on the things of this world**
 - **Make sure we're NOT ASLEEP in the LIGHT**