

The Gospel of Mark

Lesson 31: Mark 13:3-23

Starting point: *To which period(s) is Jesus referring in the Olivet Discourse?*

Why does Jesus tell His disciples all this?

Do not be deceived (vv. 3-13)

Matt. 24:3-14
Luke 21:7-19

- Back to the original four fishermen, Peter, Andrew, James, and John
- They are to expect false messiahs to deceive many people
- He tells them not to be troubled by talk of war
 - This would seem alarming, considering *Pax Romana*
- They are to expect natural and human disasters
 - Jewish belief that the messianic kingdom would emerge from a period of suffering they called the “messianic woes”
- Persecution will mount regardless of current events
 - “councils” would be smaller, synagogue-based tribunals
- Verse 10 has created substantial debate...*has this been fulfilled?*
- Jesus had discussed family divisions before – Matthew 10:34-39
 - Some scholars believe Mark put these remarks here editorially

What is Jesus not teaching in verse 11?

Flee to the mountains (vv. 14-23)

Matt. 24:15-28
Luke 21:20-24

- The “abomination of desolation” prophecy had an initial fulfillment in 167 BC when Antiochus IV Epiphanes desecrated the temple
 - Some see this as fulfilled a second time by the Zealots and/or Romans
 - Others see a third fulfillment in 2 Thess. 2:3-4 (and Rev. 13:5-6, 14?)
- The command is to flee right away to the wilderness
 - Don’t go back inside, leave your possessions
- Verses 19-20 could be hyperbole or an accurate description, depending on the perspective and the time Jesus is describing
- Jesus returns to the discussion about false messiahs (vv. 21-23)
 - This isn’t a repeat, but a caution about those who would delay them
 - Even some believers will be deceived by these imposters (v. 22)

What is the real danger of focusing on end time events and timetables?