

**SERIES: GETTING TO KNOW JESUS**

**SUBJECT: SIGNS OF HIS COMING**

**SCRIPTURE: MARK 13:1-37**

**SERMON No. 29**

**Introduction**

The return of Christ is the next event on His calendar! What impact does His return have on the way you live your life? I am sure you have noticed some people who wear a gold cross around their neck with an image of Christ engraved on it. I've got news for these people! Christ is no longer on the cross! After enduring that horrible, inhuman torture inflicted on him by man, he suffered the death of the cross taking the sins of the world upon himself as our substitute, in our place, that whosoever choose to accept him would be forgiven of our sin. His dead body was taken down from that cross and he was buried in a tomb. On the third day he was resurrected to life and walked among people that they could witness the fact event had taken place just as God had planned. O no, my friends Christ is no longer on the cross! He's no longer in the grave! And he's coming back just as he said he was!

What kind of impact does this make on your life? It should impact the way we live on a daily basis. But I fear that during the average week most people don't even think about the return of Christ because we get too busy, too preoccupied with other matters.

Bible prophecies are being fulfilled right before our eyes through climatic upheavals of raging storms that completely wipe out entire cities and inhabitants. Folks, this war in the mid-east is no skirmish game of football!

The Bible is clear that Christ will come back to be the Judge of all the earth. I don't think any of us want to be caught unprepared when that awesome day arrives.

In Mark 13, we are going to look at several important things that will challenge us to be ready for the return of Jesus Christ by asking three questions:

1. What is the sign of His coming?
2. What is the time of His coming?
3. What can we do to prepare for His coming?

How we answer those questions should make a big difference in how you and I live our lives, every day.

**-a Jesus and his disciples are leaving the Temple (1).** *And as he went out of the temple, one of his disciples saith unto him, Master see what manner of stones and what building are here!*

It was a magnificent building began by Herod the Great in 20bc and completed 84 years later. Some of the stones in the Temple were forty feet long and eighteen feet high. A lot of the outside of the Temple was covered in gold and silver and shone so brightly in the sun that you would have to cover your eyes to look at it.

**-b Jesus put the beauty of material things in perspective (2).** *And Jesus answering said unto him, Seest thou these great buildings? There shall not be one stone upon another that shall not be thrown down.* This beautiful temple was destroyed and leveled by the Romans in AD70, under the leadership of the Roman general, Titus, along with the city of Jerusalem.

From the Temple, Jesus and His disciples went outside the city, to the Mount of Olives. And what follows in the next verses is known

as the Olivet Discourse, because that's where Jesus spoke these words. And it's in this teaching that Jesus will answer our three questions!

**I. WHAT IS THE SIGN OF JESUS' COMING? (4).** Tell us, when shall these things be? And what shall be the sign when all these things shall be fulfilled? This is the same question many people are asking today. "When is it going to happen, and how are we going to know when it is time."

Well, in the next verses, Jesus first gives us several signs of the times. But they really aren't signs of the Second Coming. In reality they are indications that society is getting worse and worse. So, in reality, they are non-sign, signs. And these "non-signs" tell us that the time is getting near, but they don't tell us that the time is started. *So, what are these "non-signs"?*

**1. The first is that deceivers will appear. (6)** For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. One Jewish Christian scholar, Dr. Charles Feinberg, has noted that from the time of Christ to now, over sixty-five different individuals have appeared to the Jewish people, claiming to be the Messiah. Then when you add in all the people claiming to be God's unique spokesman in today's New Age movement and in the history of the cults around the world, the number becomes huge.

And the power that these people have to deceive others, is why Jesus said in verse (5) **Jesus said unto them, Take heed lest any man deceive you.**

Notice verses 7-8. **And when ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars, be ye not troubled: for such things must needs be; but the end shall not be yet. 8 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom**

against kingdom: and there shall be earthquakes in divers places, and there shall be famines and troubles: these are the beginnings of sorrow.

But even though there will be this global turmoil, these things do not signal His Second Coming. They are signs, but signs of how sick and decaying society will become as Jesus return gets nearer. They are only signaling the beginning of the process. So, when we see the events described by Jesus beginning to take place with increasing frequency, we know the countdown has started. But we still don't know how long it will be before the end.

**2. Another thing that will signal the beginning of the end is the persecution of Christians (9).** *But take heed to yourselves: for they shall deliver you up to councils; and in the synagogues ye shall be beaten: and ye shall be brought before rulers and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them.* (Muslims)

Followers of Jesus Christ will be hauled into courts, beaten, and brought before secular authorities. All because they are trying to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, His salvation and His love.

This persecution will even extend to families, with brother against brother and parents against children and children against their parents. Look at verse 12 *Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and children shall rise up against their parents, and shall cause them to be put to death.*

Then in verse 13, Jesus says *And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.* What He's referring to, is standing firm to the end of one's life, not just the end of the persecution. In other words,

people will be called on to be willing to lay their lives down for Jesus.

**3. The first real sign of Jesus coming again. (14).** But when ye shall see the ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION, spoken by Daniel the prophet, standing where he ought not, (let him that readeth understand,) then let them that be in Judea flee to the mountains.

**-a The Abomination of Desolation is also referred to in Daniel 11:31** And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate. In this event, the Holy Temple in Jerusalem is going to be desecrated.

**Paul writes about this in 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4** Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; 4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

For this to take place the Temple will have to be rebuilt. Since its destruction in AD 70 there has never been a Temple in Jerusalem. What now sits on the sacred Temple foundation is the Moslem "Dome of the Rock."

There has never been a greater possibility that the Temple could be rebuilt in the present because the Jews have never been in power as they are today since AD 70.

**-b At this point in history there will come a great tribulation. (14).** But when ye shall see the ABOMINATION OF

DESOLATION, spoken by Daniel the prophet, standing where he ought not, (let him that readeth understand,) then let them that be in Judea flee to the mountains.

Christians in Judea will be in great peril. Jesus tells them to flee to the mountains, not to turn back to their houses to get even the most essential items.

In describing this time He says in verse (19) **For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be.**

Then there will appear even more false Messiahs and false prophets who will try to lead people astray.(22) **For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall show signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect.**

Then Jesus says, (23) **But take ye heed: behold, I have fortold you all things.** In other words, know what's being said here. Realize what will happen, and don't be duped by it

**-c Now, what happens next is very significant. (24-25). But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, 25 And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken.** Jesus describes events which will take place after the tribulation. Some kind of solar cataclysm will upset the order of things in our universe.

At this point, people will look up and see what happens next (26-27). **And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. 27 And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.** This is

the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to reign in glory! *Now lets observe the second question...*

**II. WHAT IS THE TIME OF HIS COMING? (28-29).** Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is near: 29 So ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, even at the door.

**1. Jesus is telling us that it is possible to know the general time of His coming.** Just like we can tell the general time that summer is near by looking at the trees budding..., in the same way, we can figure out the general time when Jesus will come back.

He tells us this so we don't get lulled into complacency, or think we've got plenty of time, or that no one can be sure of the coming of Christ.

**2. His coming is sure. Because He says in (31). Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.** You and I can be assured that the end of the world is going to come. The world as we know it will be disrupted and disintegrated. But while the earth may pass away, the word of Jesus Christ is sure. What He said is true. What He said would happen, will happen. You can count on it. And you and I must prepare for it.

But when it comes to the exact day or the exact hour, we are kept in the dark. In fact Jesus says that no one knows. (32). **But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.**

So don't believe anyone who sets an exact time for Jesus to return. Only one thing is known by anyone, He will return. *Third question*

### III. WHAT CAN WE DO TO PREPARE? (33-37).

Jesus gives us some very concrete instructions. **Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.** 34 For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. 35 Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: 36 Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. 37 And what I say unto you I say unto all, **Watch.** It is obvious from this passage that Jesus can return at any time. *So, He gives three specific instructions to help us be prepared for that event.*

**1. The first thing is to keep alert.** Keep awake, doing the task Jesus has left us here to do. If you're involved in doing His work you won't be duped by the enemy. And you won't be led astray.

**2. The second thing is to be involved in the things our Lord has assigned us to do.** The servants in a household back then, were all assigned specific tasks to perform. Some worked in the fields, others in the house, others in the stables. They all did different things, but they all were working.

What each of us needs to be doing is the work we are uniquely qualified to do, until Jesus comes. Because we do not want Jesus to return, and find us sleeping on the job.

**3. The third thing we are to be doing is to watch for His return.** Since we do not know when it is, we have to be ready for it today. We must be alert so the enemy doesn't deceive us; but we also must watch for the Lord. We must live in anticipation that the Lord

may come today. We must develop an awareness that His coming is sure, and could happen when we least expect it.

## **Conclusion**

Does Jesus Christ's return impact your daily life? It should!!!!

One day people are going to be busily occupied with the normal affairs of this life, when the heavens are torn in two and the trumpet of the Lord sounds. Some will wonder what's happening. Others will realize the end is at hand. Some will fall to the ground in agony. And many will realize that the Lord they had rejected is real, that the sermons they heard are true, and that it is too late for them.

But still others will turn their heads toward heaven and smile. They will be ready to receive the returning King, because they have been serving Him for years. While others hearts are crying out in anguish, their hearts will be crying out for joy, "Come Lord Jesus."

Are you ready? You can get ready today. It starts with a relationship between you and God where He becomes the forgiver of your sins and the leader of your life.

The ABCs to follow:

**A**dmit that you are a sinner.

**B**elieve that Jesus Christ died on the cross for your sins and was raised from the dead on the third day by the power of God.

**C**onfess with your mouth that Jesus Christ is the Savior and Lord of your life.

