



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK, CHAPTERS 11-13

MARK 11

The Triumphal Entry (v 1-11)

Zechariah 9: 9

*Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation is he,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.*

The Cries from the Crowd - Psalm 118

Significance of Passover

"Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." John 1:36.

Markan Sandwich: Judgment on the Temple

Cursing of the Fig Tree (v 12-14)

Old Testament Symbolism: Fig Tree = Israel, Judgment (*Jeremiah 8:11-13;*
Jeremiah 24:1-10)

This tree was cursed because it professed to have fruit, but did not.

Clearing of the Temple (v 15-19)

House of Prayer: *Isaiah 56:7: for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.*

Den of Robbers: *Jer 7:11: Has this house, which is called by my name, become den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, I myself have seen it, declares the LORD.*

The Fig Tree Revisited (v 20-25)

The cursing of the fig tree is a prediction of the end of the Temple, understood as doomed for failing to bear fruit.

The Religious "Authorities" Challenge Jesus' Authority (v 27-33)

Jesus answers their question with a question. *Was the baptism of John from heaven or from man? Answer me.*" (v. 30)

MARK 12

The Parable of the Tenants

This parable of judgment is addressed primarily to the religious leaders of Israel (vv. 1, 12)

Jesus was adapting a well-known story in Isaiah 5 that compares Israel to a vineyard. It is a story of what happens if the people of God persistently reject the purpose for which God has called them. It's a story of judgment.

Traps Set for Jesus by the Religious Leaders

Paying Taxes to Caesar (v 13-17)

We are citizens of heaven and earth at the same time.

Sadducees Question Jesus on Marriage at the Resurrection (v 18-27)

"The whole point of the Jewish doctrine of resurrection was that it meant a new embodied life, a life that would be given at some future date. Resurrection will not simply reproduce every aspect of our present humanity. It will be a recognizable and re-embodied human existence; but a great change will have taken place as well, whose precise nature we can at present only guess at." (NT Wright)

The Great Commandment (v 28-34)

They tested Jesus to see if He would show disregard or neglect for some area of the Law of Moses. Instead of promoting one command over another, Jesus defined the law in its essence: Love God with everything you have and love your neighbor as yourself.

The Scribes & The Widow's Offering

Jesus contrasts outward appearances and inner attitudes.

MARK 13

Apocalyptic language, Heavy Old Testament Imagery

Major Themes: The Fall of the Temple & the Future Coming of the Son of Man

In broad terms, Jesus clearly tells us two things:

- (1) There is a day of judgment ahead. This is consistent with Old Testament writings.
- (2) He does not know when, therefore WE cannot know when

The Fall of the Temple (v 1-2)

When Jesus foretold the fall of the temple to his disciples, it was imminent. The temple was destroyed in the Fall of Jerusalem in 70AD.

Josephus: *“Caesar ordered the whole city and the temple to be raised to the ground...All the rest of the wall encompassing the city was so completely leveled to the ground as to leave future visitors to the spot no ground for believing it had ever been inhabited.”*

Jesus' Response to The Disciples' Question (v 3-13)

Many scholars believe that what Jesus tells them next is about the destruction of the temple, not the "end of the world".

Jesus describes a world which was contemporary to them, but also to us (messianic pretenders, wars, earthquake, famine) but the end is not yet (v 7)

Jesus encourages endurance in the face of hatred and persecution; the one who endures will be saved.

The Abomination of Desolation (v 14-23)

Daniel 11:31: “His armed forces will rise up to desecrate the temple fortress and will abolish the daily sacrifice. Then they will set up the abomination that causes desolation.

No One Knows The Day or Hour of the Coming of the Son of Man (v 24-36)

Jesus is helping his disciples both keep their hopes alive and prepare for difficulties. For Jesus, the salient question is not the "when" of these events, but the "how" of living with this expectation.

"Apocalyptic literature is designed to comfort its readers by assuring them that God is in control of history, that they are privy to mysteries people on the outside will never know, that there will be an end to whatever they find oppresses them, and that their fidelity will be rewarded." (AJ Levine)

What does it mean to stay awake - to be watchful?

- Every act, every word, is said in light of the truth that Jesus is returning.
- Live with a sense of urgency, and be bold in sharing our faith with the lost
- Hold lightly to the things of this world.