

Lent: The Last Seven Days – Mark Scene 34

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Mark 13:1-37

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**Reflection & Discussion Questions**

**People have always been obsessed with the end of the world and what happens afterwards**

We may be drawn to contemplate our fears surrounding this topic.

\*Would you say this is true of you?

\*What kind of things do you find yourself thinking or fearing, maybe especially in light of the spread of fear in recent days?

**Read and discuss Mark 13:1-13 (Nicolas Zola translation)**

*And as he was leaving the temple, one of his students says to him, "Teacher, what wonderful stones! And what a wonderful building!" And Jesus said to him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not even one stone upon another will be left here that will not be torn down." And when he was sitting on the Mount of Olives, across from the temple, Rock and James and John and Andrew began asking him privately, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign when all these things are about to be carried out?" But Jesus began to say to them, "Beware that no one misleads you. Many will come in my name saying, 'I am he,' and they will mislead many. But when you hear of battles and reports of battles, do not be disturbed. This must take place, but it is not yet the end. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places. There will be famines. These things are the beginning of birth pains. And watch out for yourselves. They will hand you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues, and you will be made to stand before governors and kings for my sake, as a witness to them. And the good news must first be proclaimed to all nations. And when they lead you away to hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you should say, but whatever is given to you at that time, say this. For you yourselves are not speaking, but the Holy Spirit. And brother will hand over brother to death, and a father his child. And children will rise up against parents and put them to death. And you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end, this one will be saved. But when you see the 'repugnance of devastation' standing where he must not (let the reader understand), then those who are in Judea must flee to the hills. The one on a housetop must not climb down or go inside to get anything from the house, and the one in a field must not turn back to get clothing. And the poor women who are pregnant and who are nursing in those days! And pray that it does not happen in winter. For those days will be a trial such as has not occurred from the beginning of the creation that God created until now, and never will occur. And if the Lord did not shorten the days, no flesh would be saved. But because of the chosen ones, whom he chose, he shortened the days. And then if anyone says to you, 'Look, the Anointed One is here! And look, there he is!' do not trust it. For false anointed ones and false prophets will rise up and produce signs and wonders in order to lead the chosen ones astray, if possible. But you, beware. I have told you these things ahead of time. But when you see the 'repugnance of devastation' standing where he must not (let the reader understand), then those who are in Judea must flee to the hills. The one on a housetop must not climb down or go inside to get anything from the house, and the one in a field must not turn back to get clothing. And the poor women who are pregnant and who are nursing in those days! And pray that it does not happen in winter.*

\*Who does this passage seem to be written for? What does it show us about God?

\*What is this passage saying to you? Is there something here to share with someone else?

### **'These things are the beginning of the birth pains'**

This is the beginning of the world, not the end of it.

\*If this passage was not written primarily for us, are there any implications of birth pains for us?

\*How do you see this as the beginning of the world?

### **Read and discuss Mark 13:24- (Nicolas Zola translation)**

*But in those days, after that trial, 'the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from the sky, and the powers that are in the heavens will be shaken.' And then they will see 'the Son of Humanity coming in clouds' with great power and glory. And then he will send the angels, and he will gather his chosen ones out of the four winds, from the end of the earth to the end of the sky. Now learn the comparison from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and put out leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the doors. I assure you that this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. The sky and the earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But nobody knows about that day or that time—neither an angel in the sky nor the son—except the Father. Beware, be alert. For you do not know when the time is. Like when a person leaves the house for a journey and gives each of the slaves authority for their work and commanded the doorkeeper to keep watch. So keep watch! For you do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at early morning, or at dawn. Or he will come suddenly and find you sleeping. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep watch!*

\*Does this passage seem to be about the second coming or the days after Jesus' resurrection? What makes you think that?

\*What message does it hold for us in either case?

### **Knowing is not the most important thing**

But keeping watch for Him is.

\*How is the command to 'keep watch' one of hope and encouragement?

\*What does it mean for you today? What is he calling you to keep watch for in your world today?

For more information or additional resources on Lent, please contact Caitlin [cgarrett@pulpitrock.com](mailto:cgarrett@pulpitrock.com)