



The End of the World As We Know It

Mark 13

When facing turbulence:

- Don't be deceived...be ready.
- Don't be afraid...be ready.
- Don't be ignorant...be ready.
- Don't be careless...be ready.

GETTING STARTED: Do you typically pay attention on an airplane when the flight attendant is giving instructions? Why or why not?

DIGGING DEEPER: Why do you think that Jesus used the discussion about the temple to begin His discourse about the end of the age? What made the temple so significant for the disciples? What would its destruction symbolize for them? Upon hearing this bombshell, what two questions do the disciples ask (v. 4)? What events might deceive them into thinking the end times had come (vv. 5-8)? What will these events signify? After that, what things will happen to the disciples and the early church (vv. 9-13)? What Comfort and Advocate will aid them to endure their trials? What dreadful event (v. 14; see Da. 9:26, 11:31, 12:11) will bring "days of distress" unequalled in human history? What deceptive signs will accompany that distress (vv. 21-22)? How will the Son of Man come (vv. 24-27)? How does the "fig tree" lesson (vv. 28-29) answer the disciples' questions from verse 4 (also 11:12-14, 20-21)? What promises does Jesus give in verses 30-31? How would this comfort (or discomfort) the disciples? What impact do these promises have on you, 20 centuries later? Why do you think the Father has kept the time secret (v. 32)? What is the responsibility of believers in the meantime?

LIVING IT OUT: When you see the forces of evil apparently winning, do you feel like withdrawing from the battle and perching on the rooftop or rolling up your sleeves and getting into the fray? How does this passage encourage you? What is the most exciting thing to you about Jesus' return? The most distressing? Specifically, how can you fulfill verses 34 and 37: "Be on guard! Be alert... Watch!"?



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