

*The Lesson of
the Fig Tree*

13
Mark

Day 1

1. Read Mark 13 before starting this study guide. Pray asking the Lord to bless your time in his word.
2. What do all these signs have in common?



3. When you see these signs like these are you immediately angry and prepared to demand your right to run your own life?

What feelings do you have when you see signs like these?

How do you feel toward those who placed the sign there for you to see?

After seeing a warning sign, how are you likely to proceed forward?

4. This is a chapter contains several warnings and a call to watch, to be on guard, to be alert. Read the chapter once again and this time underline in red each of the warnings.
5. Mark 13:1-2 tell us that Jesus and his disciples were leaving the temple. As they were walking away someone in the group made mention of the huge stones that were a part of the magnificent temple. Jesus uses this as an opportunity to warn his followers of things to come. Jesus was describing the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in AD 70. What emotions might they have felt at hearing Jesus say this?
6. Jesus does not want his followers to be unaware of fact that difficult days lay ahead. The author of Hebrews addresses how to continue when life is hard. According to Hebrews 12:1-2, what are Jesus followers to do? Underline the instructions given us as His followers.

Hebrews 12:1-2, Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

7. The author of the letter to the Hebrews had just been talking about the Old Testament heroes of the faith in the previous chapter. In this chapter he calls them "such a great cloud of witnesses." Does this comfort you to know we have them cheering us on as we live a life of faithfulness?

Day

2

8. Look at verses listed below, each verse contains a word translated from the Greek word Blepo; to see, to discern, take heed. This word is a verb, it is a word that shows or calls for action.

Mark 13	What is the call to action in each verse for all who follow Jesus?
Verse 2 see	
Verse 5 Watch out	
Verse 9 Be on guard	
Verse 23 Be on guard	
Verse 33 Be on guard	

9. In verse 3 we see Jesus is seated on the Mount of Olives looking toward Jerusalem. The temple would have been easy to see, he was only about ½ mile to the east. The text tells us that only four of his disciples were with him. Which disciples were present for this conversation with Jesus?

10. The disciples asked Jesus to clarify his comments on the destruction of the temple. What facts were they asking Jesus to share?

11. Verse 5 Jesus makes it perfectly clear that there will be those who make it their goal to deceive believers. What are some of the ways false teachers will attempt to deceive?

How does knowing the word of God and His character provide a plumb line so we can know if something is true?

12. Jesus warns that many will come and attempt to deceive. Take care not to be deceived by these false prophets. Who will they be claiming to be?

13. Catastrophic events, wars and disasters of nature, are no new thing. They have been around through all the generations. What does Jesus call them at the end of verse 8?

14. What does it mean to “be on guard” as Jesus instructs in Mark 13:9?

Day

3

15. Look up the word that is translated “gospel” in Mark 13:10 and define.

16. Where must it be preached?
Look up Matthew 24:14, this began with Jesus commission in Mathew 28:19 and has continued throughout the centuries. Obedient followers of Christ still carry out this command.

17. As believers, we need not worry about how we will answer tough questions, when we are in a difficult situation. What is the promise given in verse 11?

18. Betrayal is always a painful experience because it involves broken trust. The betrayal described in Mark 13:12 is the most painful of all. What is the betrayal mentioned here?
19. What reason given in verse 13 for this inconceivable betrayal?
20. As an American citizen it can be difficult for us to get a real picture of this type of betrayal and persecution. But there are places in the world today where Christians suffer unthinkable things for their faith in Christ. What is the promise for those who remain faithful to Christ despite tremendous opposition, betrayal, and persecution?
21. What do the verses below have in common?

Psalm 86:11-12 Teach me your way, LORD, that I may rely on your faithfulness; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name. 12 I will praise you, Lord my God, with all my heart; I will glorify your name forever.

Romans 5:3-4 And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope;

James 1:12 Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

2 Thessalonians 3:13 But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary of doing good.

Galatians 6:9 Let us not lose heart in doing good,...

Day 4

22. Go back and read the chapter identifying the signs Jesus is instructing them to watch for. You might like to underline them in your Bible first, so they are easier to identify.

Sign	General	Specific
Sign 1	Imposters/Deceivers Mark 13:6	Those claiming to be Jesus returned they will deceive many.
Sign 2	Acts of Violence Mark 13:7	
Sign 3	Natural Disasters Mark 13:8	
Sign 4	Personal suffering Mark 13:9	
Sign 5	Mass hatred Mark 13:13	
Sign 6	Antichrist desecration of God's temple Mark 13:14	
Sign 7	Claiming to be Messiah Mark 13:21	

23. Read 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 to gain a greater understanding of the sixth sign mentioned. The abomination that causes desolation. According to the verses in 2 Thessalonians, what are the specific events? You may also want to look at Daniel 11:31-35.
24. This is often referred to as the tribulation period. Define tribulation.
25. Mark 13:19 calls this the “days of distress” or “days of affliction.” How bad will the tribulation, distress and affliction become?
26. According to Matthew 13:20-21 what will happen to all those who are not firmly rooted in Christ?

Matthew 13:20-21 NIV, The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy.²¹ But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.

27. As a believer in Jesus Christ, should we be surprised when we suffer persecution and go through some tribulation? Read John 16:33 and John 14:25-27; how are we to respond?

John 16:33 *“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”*

John 14:25-29 *“All this I have spoken while still with you. 26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”*

28. According to verse 20, how is the Lord’s love for his children expressed?
29. Who are the chosen (some translations say, elect) mentioned in Mark 13:20?

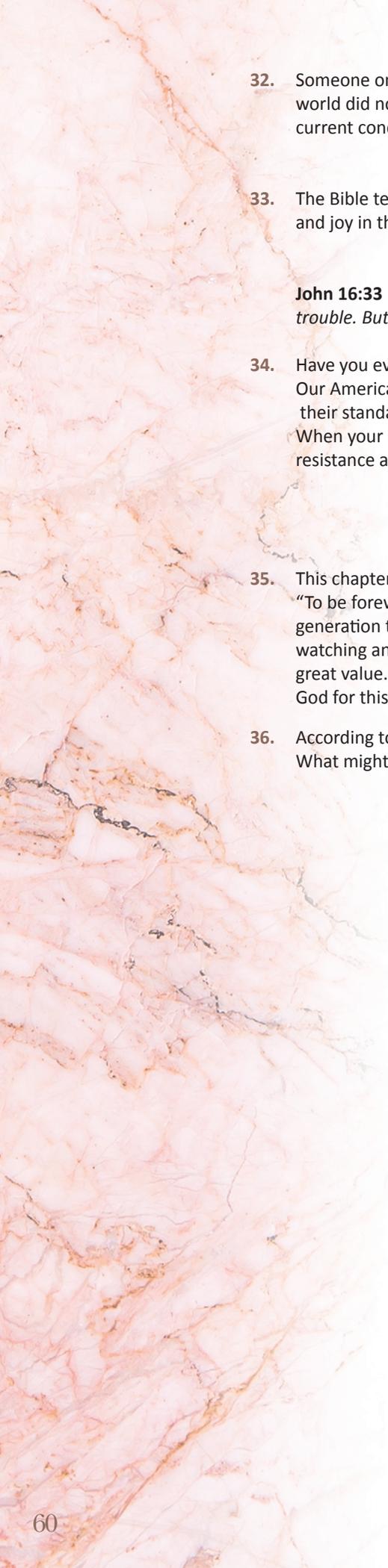
Day

5

30. Take a few minutes and write out your personal testimony. How did you come to know the Lord? This is not busy work. We will discuss this in our small groups. Just a paragraph or two.
31. If you have never asked the Lord to forgive your sins and to be your Savior, I would like to invite you to do it now. We have no promise of another day or hour. Read the verses below, when is the best time to say yes to Jesus?
Psalms 95:7-8 ... *Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts...*
2 Corinthians 6:2 *Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.*
Proverbs 28:13 *Whoever conceals his sins will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.*

You might be saying, I don’t know what to say to Jesus. It is simple just acknowledge you are a sinner, and you need a Savior. Jesus paid for all the sins of all mankind, past, present, and future, when he died on the cross. His resurrection was proof positive that God accepted this payment on our behalf. God’s amazing gift of salvation is waiting for you.

Ask and you will receive. Yes, it is just that simple.

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32. Someone once said, “In this world one can find happiness but joy comes from the Lord. And since the world did not give me my joy, I will not allow the cares of this world to take it away.” What part is your current condition and situation playing in your outlook on life? Is joy fleeting or is it deeper than that?
33. The Bible tells us that “in this world you will have trouble.” Read John 16:33, is it possible to have peace and joy in this world despite our difficulties and problems?

John 16:33 *“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”*

34. Have you ever felt the whole world was against you because you are a Christian? Our American culture takes great pride in their inclusivity, but does that always include Christians and their standards? When your moral standard is different from the world’s standard do you feel accepted, or do you feel resistance and pressure to conform?
35. This chapter serves as a warning of things to come. “To be forewarned is to be forearmed” is an old saying that has been handed down from generation to generation. In this case, knowledge in advance enables believers to be watching and not be caught off guard. This is just another reason why studying God’s word is of great value. Nothing drives away anxiety and fear like a heart of thankfulness. Take a minute and thank God for this chapter and the warnings we have seen.
36. According to Mark 13:35-37, what is to be the deliberate stance or posture of every believer? What might this look like? What does it consist of?