

Mark 13:28 to 14:2

I. Review:

- 1) Promise of much tribulation as a means of covenant people “feeling the evil” of their rejection of Jesus the Messiah.
 - The depth of the tribulation to be so deep that, if the Lord had not cut them short, no human being would be saved, even the elect. It is so important that all believers remember, all are in Him only by grace.
- 2) Jesus warns them to look out for “false messiahs/prophets claiming to be the Christ. When He appears all will see.
- 3) Jesus purpose in telling them about these things was so that:
 - Know that life would not be easy
 - They would discern the error and lies of the deceivers
 - To know He will always provide the means by which we can escape
- 4) All of that changes when they see: the Son of Man coming on the clouds with great power & glory” and sending out angels to gather His elect

II. Vs 28-31 Lesson from the fig tree (again)

- 1) “as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out leaves:
 - “you know summer is near” “at the very gates”
 - * This is a sign for believers to not lose trust in the harshness of winter (tribulation, suffering, and opposition of the world)
 - ** Instead they can trust that as the Lord brings newness and growth in the spring, so shall He bring new life out of the barrenness of this world when Christ returns.

III. Truly I say to you “this generation will not pass away until these things take place”

- A. All these hard signs will begin to take place within the generation of the apostles. It doesn’t mean they end with them, but be initiated then and last until His return (Calvin)
 - ** Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away”
- B. The key here is the trustworthiness of all that the Lord tells us
 - Calvin thinks this is about all the ups/downs of world and history. These events won’t keep the events He promised from happening.
 - * All this is meant to give them the certainty of His coming & His reign.

IV. Vs 32 “But concerning that day or hour”:

- * “No one knows”
- 1. “Not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father”
 - Jesus affirms here exactly what Luke wrote in Acts 1:7 “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by His own authority”.

2. Some question the Son not knowing, this is all about Him obeying and becoming “fully man” for a time, He voluntarily “emptied” Himself (Phil. 2)
 - This again is a call for us to forget about “when” and to focus on it’s reality.
 - The focus on “when” by us is all about pride and vanity, and an unwillingness to go on just what the Lord chooses to reveal to us in Christ and His Word.
 - Calvin and Luther on two natures: red-hot sword vs. field of vision

IV. Vs 33-37 Wisdom from Jesus:

1. “Be on guard, keep awake”
 - “for you do not know when the time will come.
 - “Those who wait upon the Lord” Is. 40 / Analogy of a sprinter
 - What are some practical ways to wait upon the Lord? Brainstorm
2. It is like a man going on a journey when he leaves home, puts his servants in charge:
 - Each has work to do, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake
 - * “Therefore, stay awake (for you do not know when the master will come”
 - Two parts to this command: 1) Doing what we have been called to do; wait, seek, believe on the one He has sent (Jn. 6:29)
 - 2) “stay awake” watch, pay attention to, keep your focus on, don’t be distracted by “other things, the things of this world”.
 - Mt. 25 Parable of the virgins and their lamps
3. What Jesus says to the disciples, He says to all, “Stay awake”!
 - Because the time is unknown, it is vitally important for us to be vigilant in preparing.
 - * This call to watch applies both to the church watching for “false teachers & messiahs to arise, and to a call to watch for the coming of the Lord at the end of time.

V. Chapter 14 Vs 1 Events leading up to the crucifixion:

- 1) It was 2 days before the Passover & the Feast of Unleavened Bread
 - * The chief priests (Caiphas, Annas) and the scribes were seeking how to:
 1. Arrest Him by stealth (Mt. 26:57, Jn. 11:47-53)
 - Human nature not submitted to Christ is in (rebellion, opposition, Rom: 8:7 hostile to God, Rom. 5:8 enemies of God)
 2. Kill Him (Seen before in Chs. 3:6, 11:18, 12:12)
 - Mt. 6:24 “Can’t serve God and _____” you will hate one and love other
 - Do we see how this is true with the “self”, there can only be one in charge

VI. Vs 2 They were afraid and unwilling to arrest Him publicly and during the feast because:

- 1) “lest there was an uproar from the people”
 - A. Really bad idea for the relationship with Rome
 - 1) Population of Jerusalem swelled from 50,000 to 250,000 during festivals.
 - A. Rome had a zero tolerance policy towards any kind of protests or uprisings.
 1. This is the policy the chief priests eventually use in taking Jesus to Pilot.
 - A. Leaders careful not to mobilize an uprising of support for Him against them.

