

**MONDAY**

*September 2*

## **Not One Stone on Another**

Read Mark 13:1-13. How did the disciples respond to Jesus' statement about the temple, and what is the significance of Jesus' answer to them?

And as he went out of the temple, one of his disciples saith unto him, Master, see what manner of stones and what buildings are here!

**2** And Jesus answering said unto him, Seest thou these great buildings? there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

Ephesians 2:19-22; 1Peter 2:4,5;

**3** And as he sat upon the mount of Olives over against the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately,

The Jesus Huddle - time with Christ - private personal time with Jesus so we can learn the game plan and be ready for the next play.

**4** Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign when all these things shall be fulfilled?

5 And Jesus answering them began to say, Take heed lest any man deceive you:

6 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

Do not trust men - do not follow men - especially Christian men/pastors/leaders/presidents

Listen to what they say - follow their counsel IF it harmonizes with Gods word but do not follow them simply because they are in positions of leadership

Saul - early church leaders and Paul -

-Ps 118:8, 9 - quote then explain center of Bible.

-Acts 17:11 Bereans - be a Berean

-Jer 17:5-10

5 Thus saith the Lord; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord.

6 For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited.

7 Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is.

8 For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.

9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

10 I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

7 And when ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars, be ye not troubled: for such things must needs be; but the end shall not be yet.

8 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be earthquakes in divers places, and there shall be famines and troubles: these are the beginnings of sorrows.

Birthpains - increase intensity and frequency - both of the birthed and the birthee - those who are being birthed grow or mature either in Christian character or in the character of deception.

9 But take heed to yourselves: for they shall deliver you up to councils; and in the synagogues ye shall be beaten: and ye shall be brought before rulers and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them.

Persecution of believers is a testimony against the persecutors.

**10** And the gospel must first be published among all nations.

During persecution all nations have a chance to see the gospel.

Matthew 24:14 - fuller understanding

**11** But when they shall lead you, and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost.

Believers do not prepare sermons during this time of severe persecution. They prepare themselves! You do not prepare a sermon your are the sermon - Coming soon to a courthouse near you. Many would rather see a sermon than hear one anyway!

**12** Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and children shall rise up against *their* parents, and shall cause them to be put to death.

**13** And ye shall be hated of all *men* for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

Today we call this cancel culture - which unfortunately Christians that I know - SDA Christians - justify as a way of taking out people that they disagree with. The endgame is the same - we want to eliminate certain people from society. We think we can choose - that our judgment is Gods - yet our actions reveal the truth - cancel culture is putting ourselves in the place of God - it's anti- christ - anti-Christian in every way.

How do believers endure the loss and betrayal of family and close friends? How do we endure world-wide hate and death? How did Jesus endure it?

Hebrews 12:1, 2, 15

Titus ?

Sabbath keeper.?

1800 2nd coming?

As we have noted, the temple complex was a truly amazing structure. Josephus notes that the Royal Portico on the south side of the complex had 162 pillars, each of which three men clasping hands could reach around (*Antiquities*, 15.11.5 §§413-414). Jesus says that it will *all be thrown down*. Such a prophecy concerning this amazing structure would sound to the listener like the end of the world.

"As Christ's attention was attracted to the magnificence of the temple, what must have been the unuttered thoughts of that

Rejected One! The view before Him was indeed beautiful, but He said with sadness, I see it all. The buildings are indeed wonderful. You point to these walls as apparently indestructible; but listen to My words: The day will come when 'there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.' "—Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 627.

The disciples want to know when this prediction that Jesus has made will come to pass. Thus, in Mark 13:4, a small group, Peter, James, John, and Andrew, ask Him for the timing. They want to know when all these things will happen and what will be the sign when they are about to take place.

What is striking in Mark 13:5-13 is that Jesus spends most of His time not in describing the fall of Jerusalem but rather in warning His disciples about what they can expect in their ministry of establishing the early Christian church. It does not sound like it's going to be easy either.

In fact, they will be persecuted, put on trial, and some will be killed. But all through this, Jesus indicates that the time is not yet. They are not to be deceived by tumultuous events. Furthermore, the Holy Spirit will give them the words to speak at the right time, even when family and friends desert them.

The takeaway from these introductory words in Jesus' prophecy is that the people of God are not to fear tumult and trial. They are to be vigilant, because God's Spirit is going to carry them through the trouble.

**What has been your own experience with the trials that come from following Jesus? If you haven't had any, might you need to ask if you are actually following Him?**