

APRIL 21, 2024

THINGS TO COME, PT. 3

Pastor Jason Uptmore // Mark 13:24-37



PREPARE YOUR HEART & MIND

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you can recall, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to guide you in your time.



24 "But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light, 25 and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers that are in the heavens will be shaken. 26 Then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. 27 And then He will send forth the angels, and will gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest end of the earth to the farthest end of heaven.

28 "Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 Even so, you too, when you see these things happening, recognize that He is near, right at the door. 30 Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away. 32 But of that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.

33 "Take heed, keep on the alert; for you do not know when the appointed time will come. 34 It is like a man away on a journey, who upon leaving his house and putting his slaves in charge, assigning to each one his task, also commanded the doorkeeper to stay on the alert. 35 Therefore, be on the alert—for you do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether in the evening, at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning— 36 in case he should come suddenly and find you asleep. 37 What I say to you I say to all, 'Be on the alert!'"



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GROW IN THE WORD

- Who does Jesus make himself out to be by his reference of Old Testament verses and his promise that his "words will not pass away"? See Daniel 7:13-14; Isaiah 13:10-11; 40:6-8.

- What difference does it make for you to know that God is sovereign even in the midst of chaotic, uncontrollable events as Jesus described?

02. Jesus explained to his disciples that no one knows about the timing of his return except the Father alone. Because of this uncertainty, he commanded his disciples to always be on the alert illustrating his point with an analogy about a master returning home from a journey. Again, Jesus commanded them to be on the alert (v. 32-37).

- How would you describe the demeanor and attitude Jesus wanted his disciples to have in light of his future return? See also 2 Peter 3:8-10; 1 Thessalonians 5:4-9.

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Pray to begin your group time. Remind the group why you are meeting: to connect in meaningful relationships, to grow spiritually, and to engage in the life and work of the church together. Reflect on the values you want to share as a group (i.e. confidentiality, authenticity, grace).

CONNECT (30-40 MIN)

You can use these suggestions to foster connection and build community in your group. You can break your group into smaller parts if needed, pick a question to discuss, and let each member get to know one another.

- Spend a few minutes catching up with one another. Discuss any applications you had from the previous week.
- Pick one of the Reflect/Connect questions in the passage guide or an icebreaker to begin your discussion.

GROW (30-40 MIN)

Gather back as a big group if you broke up earlier and have one person pray over your time discussing God's word. As you discuss, don't worry if there are questions left unanswered or unresolved. Reach out to ministry leaders or pastors for any needed clarification.

- Discuss the questions in order from top to bottom. Make sure you dwell on questions that engage the group. Leave ample time for the last two questions of the passage guide.
- Read any cross-references together and discuss.

ENGAGE (30-40 MIN)

Reflect on the biblical truth God revealed to you this week and discuss a plan of action to apply what you have learned. Gather in smaller groups of 2-4 again. Discuss your plan of action and pray for one another.

- Spend time reflecting on the last two questions of the passage guide. Pray together and seek God's guidance to lead you to apply His Word.
- Close the group time by sharing prayer requests and praying for one another.