

Tusculum Hills Baptist Church
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Sermon title: Jesus Warns Repeatedly, Mark 13

Date preached: January 15, 2017

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INTRODUCTION: Here we have a normal conversation between a disciple and Jesus, which launched into a conversation about the future. By now, Jesus' disciples had matured from some of their earlier innocence and childish ways.

As we know, just a few years later, the temple was destroyed. But, a lot of time has passed since then. All of the things Jesus predicted in verses 6 through 8 have happened over and over—wars and rumors of wars, nation rising against nation, kingdom against kingdom, earthquakes, and famines.

This morning we are going to talk about what Jesus warns repeatedly.

OVERVIEW: The Warnings

1. "Watch out that no one deceives you."
2. "You must be on your guard."
3. "So be on your guard."
4. "Be on guard! Be alert!"
5. "...keep watch."
6. "Watch!"

SCRIPTURE: Mark 13:1-8 ¹*As Jesus was leaving the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!"*

² *"Do you see all these great buildings?" replied Jesus. "Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down."*

³*As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John and Andrew asked him privately, ⁴ "Tell us, when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are all about to be fulfilled?"*

⁵Jesus said to them: “**Watch out that no one deceives you.** (The first warning)

⁶Many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am he,’ and will deceive many.

⁷When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. ⁸Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places, and famines. These are the beginning of birth pains.”

EXPLANATION:

Wars

- Right now, there are 51 wars and skirmishes going on, where people are fighting. I saw a chart which gave the numbers. It was unreal.
- These wars are nations and kingdoms rising up against each other.

Earthquakes

- 76 earthquakes in the past 24 hours.
- 580 earthquakes in the past 7 days.
- 3,311 earthquakes in the past 30 days.
- 39,009 earthquakes in the past 365 days.

Famines

And, regarding famines, it is estimated by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization that one in nine people of the world are undernourished. In real numbers, this is 795 million of the world’s 7.3 billion people.

SCRIPTURE: Mark 13:9-11 ⁹“**You must be on your guard.** (The second warning) *You will be handed over to the local councils and flogged in the synagogues. On account of me you will stand before governors and kings as witnesses to them.*

¹⁰*And the gospel must first be preached to all nations.* ¹¹*Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit.*

EXPLANATION: Shortly after Jesus said this, the things I just said happened to him. And, then in the years to come, his disciples would face the same things. The life of Paul and other believers in the Book of Acts gives us a detailed version of

how early believers were persecuted. In Acts 28—your homework for today is to read it—Paul lives out the last verse I just read... *“for it is not you speaking but the Holy Spirit.”* He stood before King Agrippa and made a strong appeal for Christian faith.

SCRIPTURE: Mark 13:12-19 ¹² *“Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child. Children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. ¹³Everyone will hate you because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.*

I believe we know these scriptures to be true, don't we?

¹⁴ *“When you see ‘the abomination that causes desolation’ standing where it does not belong—let the reader understand—then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. ¹⁵Let no one on the housetop go down or enter the house to take anything out. ¹⁶Let no one in the field go back to get their cloak. ¹⁷How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! ¹⁸Pray that this will not take place in winter, ¹⁹because those will be days of distress unequalled from the beginning, when God created the world, until now—and never to be equaled again.*

EXPLANATION: The abomination of desolation is mentioned in Daniel three times. Some believe it's referring to the destruction of the temple. Some believe Jerusalem, and still some believe Jesus is referring to himself. Some believe Jesus is referring to destruction that will happen before he returns someday.

SCRIPTURE: Mark 13:20-36 ²⁰ *“If the Lord had not cut short those days, no one would survive. But for the sake of the elect, whom he has chosen, he has shortened them. ²¹At that time if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Messiah!’ or, ‘Look, there he is!’ do not believe it. ²²For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. ²³**So be on your guard;** (The third warning) *I have told you everything ahead of time.**

[Mark quotes Isaiah 13:10; 34:4]

²⁴ *“But in those days, following that distress,
“the sun will be darkened,*

and the moon will not give its light;

²⁵*the stars will fall from the sky,
and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.'*

²⁶*“At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.*

²⁸*“Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. ²⁹Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened.*

³¹*Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.*

³²*“But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³**Be on guard! Be alert!** (The fourth warning) *You do not know when that time will come. ³⁴It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.**

³⁵*“Therefore **keep watch** (the fifth warning) because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. ³⁶If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. ³⁷What I say to you, I say to everyone: **‘Watch!’**” (The sixth warning)*

CONCLUSION:

1. The world will be in turmoil until Christ returns. Verse 20 says God cuts short the days of turmoil. He does this because of his grace. Today, I firmly believe God uses his people to demonstrate his grace on this earth.

- Yes, there are wars and rumors of wars and nation against each other—but God uses His people to bring about peace.

- Yes, there are earthquakes, but God uses His people to bring disaster relief.
- Yes, there are famines, but God uses His people to take food to the hungry.
- In the midst of world turmoil, God’s grace prevails because without it, the world would not survive.

So, the world will be in turmoil until Christ returns.

2. This chapter of the Bible tells us six times to be ready. Six times! How many more times do we need to be told?

There are times when we are surprised because we are completely uninformed. There are other times when we’ve been informed and forgotten. We ask, “Where did I write that down?” There are other times when we’ve been informed and did not listen.

ILLUSTRATION: Years ago, my dad, who was a pastor, made an announcement about something. A person in the church said he never made the announcement. She was so adamant about it. My dad found the cassette from that Sunday and listened to it. He asked her to listen to the tape. When she realized she was wrong, she apologized. She wasn’t listening.

But, none of us here today, and no one watching by television, will be able to say we were not warned.

The world will be in turmoil until Christ returns.

This chapter tells us six times to be ready, and—

3. Anticipating or dreading the return of Christ depends on whether you are saved.

APPLICATION: If you are without Christ, you are spiritually lost. You have no hope without him. You can do nothing for yourself in the spiritual realm. Only Christ can.

If you have repented of sin and trusted Jesus as Savior, then you should look forward to the return of Christ.

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I use the NIV translation of scripture because of its conversational nature. Feel free to go to Bible Gateway and copy and paste whichever translation you want to use. This transcript has been edited to an outline format that improves readability and therefore may not exactly follow the video edition.

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Sincerely, Paul Gunn
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