

LESSON 11

BE PREPARED

MARK 13:1–37



1 Think of an area of life where preparation is important (for example, public speaking, cooking, teaching, woodworking, test taking, vacationing, and so on). What steps do you have to take to be prepared?

2 How can you prepare for Christ's return?



Read Mark 13:1–37 and the following notes:

☐ 13:3ff ☐ 13:5–7 ☐ 13:13 ☐ 13:32 ☐ 13:33, 34 ☐ 13:35–37

3 What do you think was going through the disciples' minds when they heard Jesus talking about the Temple being destroyed and the other events of the last days (13:5–37)?

4 Has anyone ever asked you to watch or guard something for a period of time? Was it difficult to remain alert or easy to become distracted?



The intent of this passage is not to make us fearful but to give us hope and to help us remain alert. When we look around us at the sin in the world, it's easy to lose hope. But the promise of Christ's second coming reassures us. When we look around at the pleasures in the world, it is easy to become preoccupied or sidetracked from our mission. But the promise of Christ's second coming keeps us alert. Spiritual preparedness should be among our highest priorities. How we live each day matters very much. This means we should do nothing that we would regret if this were the last hour of our life.

5 How does the message in this chapter give us hope when everything seems to be going wrong?

6 What people are most happy to hear about the second coming of Christ?

7 How can some Christians be fascinated by events preceding the second coming of Christ and yet not want to prepare for it?



8 What frightens you most about the end times?

9 What is most difficult about waiting for Christ to return?

10 What do you want to be doing when Christ returns?

11 What would you regret doing if Christ returned tonight?

12 What practical steps can you take each week or each day to keep you prepared and watchful for Christ's return?



A Why did Jesus tell his disciples about the future?

B Why would anyone falsely claim to be the Messiah (13:5, 6, 21, 22)? Who are some false messiahs today?

C How can Christians be deceived (13:22)? What does it mean to be one who endures "to the end" (13:13)?

D Why does God allow believers to suffer and be persecuted?

E When have you been tempted to give up following Christ? What keeps you going?

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