

GO DEEPER

use these questions for further study

In your own words summarize the main idea of last week's passage (12:35-44)

Read Mark 13. Share 2-3 observations of what you see in the passage and then answer some or all of the following questions:

In chapter 13 there is strong repetition of words for seeing (behold x5; watch x3; see x1; see properly x5) . What does this observation tell us about the main theme of this passage? How might it relate to the parables in Mk 4 and the repeated command to "listen"?

In addition to the repeated command to properly see (discern) the word "deceive" appears 3x. Note how they contrast throughout the passage.

Why is it important for Christians to be people of discernment?

How do we distinguish between true and false signs and prophets?

How do we discern the presence of false Messiahs?

Why does Jesus take time to warn his disciples about "non-signs"?

How should we understand catastrophic events happening in our time?

What is the danger of looking for signs?

Consider vs 9-13. What do they teach us about Gospel faithfulness?

In what ways is the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple a "worse trial than ever before or after"?

How does Jesus' reference to "this generation" help us know what he is talking about in this passage?

Why does Jesus want people to know about the coming destruction of the city?

Read Isaiah 13:9-10 & 34:4. How do these verses help us interpret Mk 13:24-25? (see also: Jg 5:4-5; Amos1:2; Hab 3:3-6, 10-11; Ps 77:14-16 & 114:1-8)

Consider vs 32-37. Who knows when Jesus will return? Who doesn't know?

How should we view anyone who claims to know when Jesus will return?

What is the danger in speculating about times and signs?

What can we know with certainty regarding Jesus' return?

How should this influence how we use our time and energy?

How does the certainty of Jesus' return enable us to live with hope and courage?

What does it look like to live a faithful and watchful life as a disciple of Jesus?

GO DEEPER

use these questions for further study

In your own words summarize the main idea of last week's passage (12:35-44)

Read Mark 13. Share 2-3 observations of what you see in the passage and then answer some or all of the following questions:

In chapter 13 there is strong repetition of words for seeing (behold x5; watch x3; see x1; see properly x5) . What does this observation tell us about the main theme of this passage? How might it relate to the parables in Mk 4 and the repeated command to "listen"?

In addition to the repeated command to properly see (discern) the word "deceive" appears 3x. Note how they contrast throughout the passage.

Why is it important for Christians to be people of discernment?

How do we distinguish between true and false signs and prophets?

How do we discern the presence of false Messiahs?

Why does Jesus take time to warn his disciples about "non-signs"?

How should we understand catastrophic events happening in our time?

What is the danger of looking for signs?

Consider vs 9-13. What do they teach us about Gospel faithfulness?

In what ways is the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple a "worse trial than ever before or after"?

How does Jesus' reference to "this generation" help us know what he is talking about in this passage?

Why does Jesus want people to know about the coming destruction of the city?

Read Isaiah 13:9-10 & 34:4. How do these verses help us interpret Mk 13:24-25? (see also: Jg 5:4-5; Amos1:2; Hab 3:3-6, 10-11; Ps 77:14-16 & 114:1-8)

Consider vs 32-37. Who knows when Jesus will return? Who doesn't know?

How should we view anyone who claims to know when Jesus will return?

What is the danger in speculating about times and signs?

What can we know with certainty regarding Jesus' return?

How should this influence how we use our time and energy?

How does the certainty of Jesus' return enable us to live with hope and courage?

What does it look like to live a faithful and watchful life as a disciple of Jesus?