



## 51 - The End is the Beginning - Mark 13.1-13 - Discussion Notes

### Introduction

A new kingdom is launching. Jesus likens the coming of us this kingdom to labor pangs of a woman. For centuries Jews believed that God would bring to birth a new creation, a new world where justice, peace, reconciliation and love would be the new normal. Jesus' mission and message were the divinely appointed means of bringing this new world about but the message of this kingdom would not be welcomed by all. The world as they knew it would be plunged into great convulsions (tribulations) and his followers would be called, like Him, to be at the very place where the purposes of God and the pain of the world overlap. In doing so they too would be caught up in those convulsions.

### Observation/Interpretation

- What examples come to mind of a painful downfall and ending of something old prior to the beginning (birthing) of something new?
- Why would talk about the destruction to the temple be a shock to those listening to Jesus?

### Application

- Where does Jesus want our hearts to be, during times of difficulty and persecution?
- Read Mark 13:9-13. How is Jesus' description of the life of a disciple different from what you may have heard or been told by others?
- If we're called to be kingdoms bearers (Jn. 20:21), where in your life do the purposes of God and the pain of this world overlap?
- What would it cost you (convulsions/tribulations/emotional pain) to be an agent of God's kingdom there?

### Prayer

Pray that God would give us boldness/confidence in his power to be witnesses of his Kingdom in those places where it may be most painful for us.

#### Community Group Discussion

- Read the passage together out loud.
- Involve your group by asking/answering the study questions, taking the time to share.
- Ask for prayer requests and be sure to pray together.

#### Family Discussion

- Have your child/children read the passage aloud, if old enough otherwise you read it aloud.
- Involve them by asking questions.
- Ask for prayer requests and invite them to pray together as a family.

A great way to use of these notes is to start/join a Community Group

These notes can be used for personal bible study, yet, another way would be to invite some people together. We call these intentional gatherings, 'Community Groups'.

What is a Community Group?

Community Groups are small gatherings of believers (non-believers welcomed too!) that meet regularly for accountability, friendship, study of the Bible and prayer. Community Groups are an essential part of the mission of Calvary SLO Church as they are a place where we wrestle with the truths of the Bible and encourage one another toward the life God intends. Each community group is unique and molded by the people who attend it. Most community groups gather weekly and involve food, dialog, prayer, discussion for applying the Bible to practical living, and loving service to one-another. They're meant to be an organic and authentic expression of the church, actively living like the body of Jesus.

Why should I join/start a Community Group?

God is a Trinitarian God who is revealed as one in three persons: Father, Son and Spirit. We've been made to image God, which means we're designed for community & friendship. We often suffer when we're not in community, due to the brokenness of life, complexity of this world and the temptation to isolate ourselves. We encourage you to gather with a small group of friends, family or roommates on a weekly basis and use these discussion notes to press deeper into God.

How do I join the Calvary SLO Community Group eco-system?

We're enthusiastic about all forms of biblical community, however there are definite benefits to joining with the Calvary SLO Community Group (CG) eco-system. In short, the benefits are:

- **Training:** We have trainings intent on equipping leaders.
- **Support:** Each CG leader is assigned a coach to provide assistance and ongoing support.
- **Visibility:** CG's are promoted via the bulletin, website & given access to The City (our online social network).

To join all you have to do is sign up for the next upcoming training! Info: pastor James: james@calvaryslo.com.