



## 52 - The King's Vindication - Mark 13.14-27 - Discussion Notes

### Introduction

Central to Jesus' message was that He himself would replace all that the temple had stood for. For hundred's of years the temple was to be known as the place where the vulnerable, the outcast and the foreigner (gentile) could turn to God. By faith all people could have their sins forgiven by way of shed blood (sacrifice). Rather than being a place where these things happened, it became a place where the vulnerable were devoured and the sacrificial system was turned into a profiting scheme. Jesus borrowed language from the prophets and pronounced a great judgment upon the temple and clearly stated that who He claimed to be and what he did would be vindicated (Mark 13:24-27). Even though Mark 13 may point to the future final judgement, Mark wants his readers to know that the destruction of the temple (70 A.D.) prophesied by Jesus, was immediately in view.

### Observation/Interpretation

- Compare the verses below. Why do you think Jesus was linking His pronouncement of judgement with these Old Testament passages?
- Mark 13:14 with Daniel 11:31, 12:11
- Mark 13:24 with Isaiah 13:10
- Mark 13:26 with Daniel 7:13

### Application

- In Mark 13:21, Jesus warns his followers to be aware of "false christ's". What do "false christ's" offer/promise? Why should Jesus' followers be careful to not follow "false christ's"?
- In Mark 13:23, Jesus told his followers to, "be on guard". What are some practical ways you as an individual/group can "be on guard"?
- Jesus's vocabulary (and life) was steeped in the Bible. What are some ways that we could value the Bible more than we do?

### Prayer

Pray that you would be on guard and be careful which voices (false christ's) you listen to.  
Ask God for boldness in helping others who've been enslaved by the empty promises of "false christ's".

#### 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.