

2026-07-26

Endure Until the End

Mark 13:5-13

Last week we began looking at Jesus' response after He told His disciples that their magnificent beautiful temple in Jerusalem will be completely destroyed and dismantled. He said, "*Not one stone shall be left upon another*" (13:2). The disciples in shock asked Him when will all this start and when will it all end. Jesus did not give the disciples any dates. What Jesus told the disciples was what was going to happen leading up to the temple's destruction and would continue until His return. Last week I told you there were three things that Jesus said was going to happen and continue to get worse as **we got closer to the end**. Those three things were 1. Deception, 2. Wars and Natural Disasters and 3. Persecution. Having gone back over this again and again, I would divide them up into 4 things. 1. Deception, 2. Wars, 3. Natural Disasters and 4. Persecution. Jesus began by talking about deception.

People are being lied to. We are being deceived especially about eternal matters. Most people do not know what happens to them after their physical death. Lots of people hope they are going to heaven but they know nothing about salvation and judgment. Even some churches are among those deceiving the people. God is very clear. It is appointed for people to physically die once and after their physical death comes judgment (Hebrews 9:27). Yet this judgment can be avoided. God has already judged our sin. He came as a man, Jesus, and took our punishment for us. That is the gospel. Jesus encouraged His disciples to preach the gospel. Do not be deceived. Do not get distracted. We are to preach God's good news of salvation to all the nations.

Remember the gospel like this. There is bad news, worse news, good news and great news. First the **bad news**. We are all sinners. Our sin is not mainly towards other people. We have sinned against God. He has established an order of living that all of us have fallen short. We have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 2:23). But the **news gets worse**. There is a coming judgment. Jesus Christ will judge us according to our sins (Romans 8:34 and John 5:22, 30). There is also a spiritual death for all who die in their sin (John 5:29 and 8:24). But wait, there is **good news**. God loves us and He does not want us to experience a spiritual death in hell. So, God demonstrated His own love for us, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8). Jesus paid the debt that God requires for everyone's sins. He died in our place. And the **great news** is, when we admit our sinfulness and repent of those sins, confessing that Jesus died for my sins, He died in my place, God will forgive you and freely give you eternal life (Romans 6:23 and 10:9-10). God wants His followers to take this gospel to all nations and make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20).

Mark 13:11 *“But when they arrest you and deliver you up, do not worry beforehand, or premeditate what you will speak. But whatever is given you in that hour, speak that; for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.”* There are people in every age who will not allow the gospel to be preached. In our age, there are more people being arrested for preaching the gospel. This is nothing new. It has been going on for centuries. As we get closer to the return of Jesus this persecution will increase. **It is strange that what people need to hear, they are prevented from hearing.** And there are lots of people who do not want to hear the gospel. For them, if the gospel is true, and it is, then they will have to change their life and they are not willing to change. They choose to stay trapped and dead in their sin and they do not know it.

Jesus has already told His disciples, do not be deceived. We are not to start believing in a different gospel (Galatians 1:8-9). Do not be distracted. Wars and natural disasters can distract us from fulfilling our task. Now Jesus tells His disciples **do not be worried about what to say** when we are arrested. It is not necessary to have some memorized presentation to say. We are supposed to trust in and allow the Holy Spirit of God, who lives in us to inspire us with what we are to say. God knows what the people need to hear and what He wants us to say. **Speak from your heart the truth of the gospel.** Do not be ashamed of the gospel. It is the power of God to bring salvation into a person's life when they believe (Romans 1:16).

Verse 12 *“Now brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; and children will rise up against parents and cause them to be put to death.”* Another thing that will happen and will get worse as we approach the return of Jesus is the **betrayal among family members** (Matthew 10:34-39). Again, this is nothing new. It has been going on for centuries, especially in certain religious groups. When a family member becomes a Christian, when they confess that Jesus is the Messiah, He is God, He has paid the debt for their sins, He has forgiven them, they are removed from the family. Sometimes a family will have a funeral for the new convert to Christ because the family feels so betrayed. Sometimes converts to Christ will actually be killed because they have chosen to follow Christ as Lord. There is more persecution of Christians in this world than ever before. Christians will be hated. They will be called names because **we are unwilling to conform to a society that spreads ideas that are contrary to the truths of God.** So, what are we to do?

Verse 13 *“And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end shall be saved.”* Our sinful nature tends to want to retaliate hatred with hatred. As a Christian, I should not allow my sinful nature to control me. I am to be **controlled by the Holy Spirit of God** who lives in me. Jesus told His disciples, *“He who endures to the end shall be saved.”* To endure means to live under suffering, or

bear up courageously in suffering. **Don't give up.** Keep believing the truth. Keep believing who Jesus is. He is God in human flesh. He is the Messiah. He died in our place. He was punished for our sins. He rose from the dead. He has forgiven us. He lives in everyone who has trusted Him as Savior and Lord. We will keep following Him and His ways. We will keep showing compassion and love to those who hate us. **Do not be conformed to this world.** We are to be transformed by renewing our minds. We are to learn to **think** the way God thinks. We are to **believe** what God has revealed. We are to **live** right according to God's truth. How long are we to endure? Until the end. Until life is done. Until all is finished.

Those who "*endure to the end shall be saved.*" **What is salvation?** It is an event and it is also a process. The event can be a process itself. It begins when we realize who we are and the problem we have. Who are we? We are sinful people. We have a sinful nature that wants to control our lives and lead us down a path of destruction. God did not create us this way. It was a choice that was made by one man. "*Through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned*" (Romans 5:12). Also, through one man's sin judgment came to all people and with that judgment is condemnation (5:16, 18). **Salvation is God's design to save us from our coming judgment and condemnation.**

Since it is impossible to save ourselves, God Himself had to save us (Mark 10:26-27). Only He could live a perfect life and offer a perfect sacrifice to meet the requirement for our forgiveness. He did this as God in Jesus. He rose from the dead to prove He has victory over sin and death. Every Sunday we gather to remind ourselves of the resurrection of Jesus. We remind ourselves that the gospel is true and eternal life is God's gift to us for believing and trusting in Him. Of course, not everyone believes this. There was a time that we did not either. When we choose to believe God's truth, He transforms us. That is the event. When we believe God, He justifies us so we have peace with God (Romans 5:1). Yet, this is just the beginning.

Salvation is also a process. Everyday I am being saved. It is the sanctification process. I would have preferred to go to heaven right after I first believed. I told God that if I remained on this earth I would sin. I would make more mistakes. If He took me to heaven, I could avoid all those mistakes. Through all those mistakes I learned more and experienced the grace of God in abundance. Through them all I see the righteousness of God and the greatness of His love. Every day I learn more about dying to my sinful nature and living for Jesus. Every day I know tests will come to challenge my faith in Jesus. Paul even encourages us to "*examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves*" (2 Corinthians 13:5). Am I really being led by the Holy Spirit? Do I really believe in the gospel of Jesus and His salvation?

Or do I let my sinful nature control me and have its way in me? *“For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord”* (Romans 8:38-39). Jesus promised all those who endure shall be saved. Salvation has an ending point. We call it glorification. The end comes at the end of our physical life on this planet or when Jesus returns for His church. Whichever comes first, the sanctification process is over, the testing is finished and our glorification begins.

I always like to find an illustration to help me understand. For salvation I think of college. How many people have taken some college classes? How many people have graduated? Congratulations! For me **salvation is something like college**. We have to get started. We have to enroll. When we do, it changes our lives. We have to start the salvation process by believing in the gospel, by trusting in Jesus. He changes our lives. At some point we graduate college. We finish all the requirements for the degree. Some people go on for multiple degrees. Some people never complete the requirements. Those who complete the course work graduate with a degree. Jesus said, *“he who endures to the end shall be saved.”* I know that in college we earn our degree. We cannot earn our salvation. Jesus paid it all. We trust in Him and His work. Yet we are created in Christ to do good works (Ephesians 2:10). When we grow in the will of God, that is in faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, kindness and love, as Peter wrote, **we make our call and election sure**. *“For so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”* (2 Peter 1:5-11).

Someone will ask, what about those who have fallen away? Do they lose their salvation. I do not believe a person can lose their salvation. Only God knows for sure who really has salvation. I do know what Jesus promised, *“he who endures to the end shall be saved.”* Endure to the end! Do away with any doubt. Keep your faith in Jesus Christ. Believe and share the gospel. Make your calling and election sure by living the life God has called us to. Show God you believe Him by living for Him.

Questions to ask yourself: Are you saved? Are you sure? Does your life show it?

Actions to take: Trust Jesus for your salvation. Then trust Him every day.

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