

SERMON NOTES & BIBLE TEXTS

You have a special insert in your bulletin that contains sermon notes, as well as Bible texts from the Gospel of *Mark*.

Again, for economy of time, we will follow them *closely*.

We now return to the Lenten teachings of **Christ**.

Today, we treat Lessons 18-22 in your booklet, entitled “The Holy Week Journey.” This moves us to the 13th-17th lessons, the last **5** lessons that **Christ** taught on that very *first & special Holy Tuesday*!

In the first three texts from *Mark*, our **Savior** continues to *predict* events that would happen right **on** or **near** the LAST DAY of human history. We call it JUDGMENT DAY, a day of rejoicing for **Christian believers** but a day of disaster for **those** headed to hell because of their rejection of **Jesus the Messiah** and the world’s **Deliverer** from sin.

We continue where we left off last Wednesday, reading the words of **Jesus** from Mark 13:24-27, our 1st text. He predicted:

March 9, 10, 2024—4pm & 9am

Day 18—The Coming of the Son of Man:

13:24 “...in those days, after that tribulation, THE SUN WILL BE DARKENED AND THE MOON WILL NOT GIVE ITS LIGHT, **25** AND THE STARS WILL BE FALLING from heaven, and the powers that are in the heavens will be shaken. **26** Then they will see THE **SON OF MAN** COMING IN CLOUDS with great power and glory. **27** And then **He** will send forth the angels, and they will gather together **His elect** from the four winds, from the farthest end of the earth to the farthest end of heaven.”

When **Jesus** comes, *the fourth day of creation will be undone!*

On the Last Day of human history, **we believers**, the **elect**, the **chosen** & **predestined**, yes, **we** will be separated from the **unbelievers**.

Listen to our **Savior**’s next warning from Mark 13:28-31, our 2nd text.

March 9, 10, 2024—4pm & 9am

Day 19—The Lesson of the Fig Tree:

13:28 “Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. **29** Even so, you too, when you see these things happening, recognize that **He** is near, *right* at the door. **30** Truly I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. **31** Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.”

FOUR STATEMENTS, THREE QUESTIONS, & ONE DIFFICULT STATEMENT:

As to the “fig tree” example: Winter—no leaves!

Spring—buds and leaves!

Summer—figs are near!

The meaning: JUDGMENT DAY is near!

You and I are living amid *the signs* of THE END: wars, famines, etc.

Do you see these *signs*? Are you growing up in **Jesus & His word**?

Are you ready & alert for **His SECOND & FINAL COMING**?

Remember that **Jesus** would have been popular with the

Jewish religious leaders if **He** had been willing to

compromise the truth of Scripture. But He would not!

That is why we are here today in church. Luther, like

Jesus, would not compromise truth. He stood firm,

saying “Here I Stand”! Let us be faithful & brave also.

The phrase “this generation will not pass away until all these things take place” appears most difficult and caused the famous Albert Schweizer to reject **Jesus**. **COMMENTS & INTERPRETATION:**

Schweizer said the Biblical portrayal of **Jesus** is *false*, especially

Christ’s teaching that **He** would RETURN during that very

generation of time—within 40 years!

But is that what our **Savior** meant? (Schweizer lost his faith via *misinterpretation* of this passage of Scripture.)

Christ meant that the same “kind” of Jews and **unbelievers** who were alive in **His generation** would still be around rejecting

Him until the END of time. And there they are, still rejecting Him in the Jewish synagogues to this very day.

Now onward to our 3rd text!

March 9, 10, 2024—4pm & 9am

Day 20—No One Knows That Day or Hour:

13:32 “But of that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the **Son**, but the **Father** alone. **33** Take heed, keep on the alert; for you do not know when the *appointed time* will come. **34** It is like a man away on a journey, who upon leaving his house and putting his slaves in charge, assigning to each one his task, also commanded the doorkeeper to stay on the alert. **35** Therefore, be on the alert—for you do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether in the evening, at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning—**36** in case he should come suddenly and find you asleep. **37** What I say to you, I say to all, ‘**Be on the alert!**’”

We first ask, “Why did **Jesus** say that He did **NOT** know when JUDGMENT DAY would occur?” **Explanation!**

Though many are falling away, we need to remember Hebrews 10:24, 25: “...let us...not forsake our own assembling together,...rather, let us encourage *one another all the more*, as you see the DAY drawing near!”

May the following words keep describing you and me: “...we are not of **those** who *shrink back* to destruction, but of **those** who *have faith* to the **preservation** of the soul” (Hebrews 10:39).

Our 4th text changes direction; it contains NO predictions from the lips of **Jesus**; rather, it reports *historical* facts.

March 9, 10, 2024—4pm & 9am

Day 21—The Plot to Kill Jesus:

14:1 Now the Passover and Unleavened Bread were two days away [on

Thursday]; and the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to seize [Jesus] by stealth and kill Him; **2** for they were saying, “Not during the festival, otherwise there might be a riot of the people.”

The *religious* leaders of the Jews wanted to seize Jesus unexpectedly, *like baiting a fish*. It was all boiled down to their “job security” & “popularity” among the people! These religious leaders feared the people because many believed in Jesus. They were also afraid that a riot would break out and the Romans would come and take their freedoms away. **Fact:** IT IS EASY FOR SIMILAR CONCERNS TO TAKE CONTROL OF OUR EMOTIONS. **Be on the alert!!!**

Our 5th and final text leads us right into the heart and core of Christ’s Passion account!!! It reports:

March 9, 10, 2024—4pm & 9am

Day 22—Judas to Betray Jesus:

14:10 Then Judas Iscariot...went off to the chief priests to betray Him to them. **11** They were glad when they heard *this*, and they promised to give him money. And he *began* seeking how to betray Him at an opportune time.

Note that “Judas Iscariot” does not mean “Judas the Betrayer”! Rather, the Hebrew word *Ish* means “man” & *Cariot* is spelled Kerioth in English. Thus, Judas Iscariot means “Judas, the man from the town of Kerioth,” not Judas the Betrayer.

Now as to the person of Judas: He was *one of the Twelve* disciples and had heard Jesus teach for 3½ years, having witnessed Christ’s miracles firsthand, *yet he betrayed Him* 😞.

Spiritual Advice: Grow in Christ with thanksgiving! If you are “slip-sliding away,” ask the Holy Spirit to move you to repent, working “godly sorrow” in you & a stronger “faith”!

May the HOLY TRINITY give you great BLESSINGS from today’s sermon. AMEN!!!