



## Uniontown Bible Church

Sermon Guide  
March 8: Mark 13

**What stood out to you most from the sermon? Why?**

**Key Takeaways:**

1. Christianity is defined by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone - not by our views on secondary issues.
2. Don't be alarmed by world events - birth pains are not death rattles. Creation is groaning, waiting to be remade.
3. The Holy Spirit shows up in our weakness - when we're out of words, out of strength, on trial.
4. Being alert means working, not watching - we're called to carry the message of hope to a world that has none.
5. Jesus' return is GOOD NEWS - we should live with hope and urgency, not fear and speculation.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Jesus will return. Evil will be defeated. The dead will be raised. God will make all things new. Why is it important to keep this as the main thing rather than getting caught up in debates about specific end-times details?
2. How have you seen Christians disagree on secondary issues (worship style, end times views, etc.) in ways that broke fellowship? What would it look like to disagree well on these topics?
3. Read Mark 13:5-8. Jesus says "don't be alarmed" when we see wars, earthquakes, and disasters. Why do you think Christians often respond with alarm instead of peace? What's the difference between being aware and being alarmed?
4. Our current time can be understood as "the valley" between two mountain peaks. What are some of the challenges and hardships of living in this valley that you've personally experienced?

5. Read Mark 13:11. Jesus promises the Holy Spirit will speak through us when we're on trial or out of words. Can you share a time when you felt completely out of words or strength, and God showed up in that moment?
6. The Holy Spirit doesn't just "show up" during the high moments of our life... The Holy Spirit shows up while you're on trial. How does this change your perspective on difficult seasons?
7. Read Mark 13:33-37 and Acts 1:6-11. Jesus repeatedly tells the disciples to stop obsessing about "when" and start focusing on their task. What is the task He's given us? Why do you think we're so tempted to focus on "when" instead?
8. We've turned "being alert" into "birdwatching" - casual observation rather than active work. What does it practically look like to "be alert" in your daily life? At work? In your neighborhood? With your family?
9. "There's thousands of people at the bottom of this hill who are lost and going to hell. Get off the hill." What keeps us comfortable on the hill instead of engaging with people who need Jesus?
10. On a scale of 1-10, how much time do you spend thinking/worrying about "when Jesus will return" versus actually doing what He's called you to do? Be honest.
11. What specific "work" has God given you to do? This could be a person He's placed in your life who needs to hear about Jesus, a ministry or service opportunity, a relationship that needs reconciliation or a habit or sin you need to address with His power.
12. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24. How does knowing that "He who calls you is faithful; He will do it" give you confidence to do the work He's called you to?

### **Practical Applications:**

1. Stop the Speculation: Commit to spending less time consuming end-times content (social media posts, videos, articles) and more time in actual Scripture and prayer.
2. Share Your Story: Identify one person in your life who doesn't know Jesus and intentionally share your testimony or invite them to church/coffee to talk about faith.

3. Serve in the Valley: Look for someone in your life who is in a "valley moment" (trial, hardship, loss) and show up for them practically this week.
4. Memorize Scripture: Commit Mark 13:31 to memory: "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away."
5. Pray for Power: Daily ask God for Holy Spirit power to be His witness where you are - Jerusalem (home), Judea (work/school), Samaria (uncomfortable places), ends of the earth (missions).