# Gospel of Mark Weekly Talk Ideas | Sean McGever

## Mark Chapter 13

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| Scripture suggestion, basic overview, and background:  Mark 13 is a very difficult chapter to give as a club talk. As always, when we bring our ongoing club talk question to the text: “What does this tell us about Jesus” and “What does this have to do with my life?” in the context of someone who just randomly showed up to club for the first time… Mark 13 answers those questions in significant ways.  I don’t suggest trying to break down the entire chapter, but I think the beginning and end of the chapter give us some great material. Here are my highlights:   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | |  | Them / Then | Us / Now | | **Outward symbols of religion** (vv.1-2) | Temple building | Cross necklaces, religious tattoos, religious Instagram bios, YL shirts (btw: none are *inherently* bad) | | **False messiahs** [king] (v.6) / Fake “Christs” [messiahs/kings] (vv.21-22) | Literally normal people who claimed to be the savior of the world and/or the “king” (there were many of these in the 1st century) | There are so many people who explicitly or implicitly attempt to demand our obedience and worship. | | **Distracting world turmoil/chaos** (v.8) | Wars, earthquakes, famines | People still get erratic when they see wild world events (war, weather, etc.) | | **Jesus’ advice…**(v.33, 34, 35, 37) | Be awake / Pay attention  (today) | Be awake / Pay attention (today) |   The main point of Mark 13 is to look to Jesus as the Messiah / King / Lord. We are easily distracted by outward symbols of religion, prominent (human) leaders demanding our obedience, and chaotic world events. The main point is simple: Jesus Christ is God and it the only one we can trust with our life today and for all the (wild) days to come. |
| Possible main point(s):   * Are you awake/alert to the most important question you could ever consider: Who is the king of my life now and for eternity? * Jesus Christ is God and it the only one we can trust with our life today and for all the (wild) days to come. |
| What this shows us about Jesus:   * Jesus knows that people will try to deceive us about who God is, who Jesus is, and what is important * Jesus warns us to watch and be awake (woke! Haha) * Jesus is the king, messiah. |
| What this has to do with our life:   * This chapter wouldn’t be needed if we weren’t easily deceived and misled by religion, prominent leaders, and wild world events… these things will never change, they will always be in our world. |
| Relevant technical details:   * Note… Mark 13 has extensive technical details. For the purpose of a club talk most are not helpful to highlight. * Temple (v.1) = The center of the Jewish religious, political, and financial world. One note, within a few decades of Mark writing his gospel account, the Temple was destroyed (in AD 70). Roman banners declaring Caesar as lord were placed on top of the Temple rubble and an altar was erected to Zeus. * “I am he” (v.6), “here is the Christ” (v.21) = “Christ” means “Messiah” which means “King.” This means is that other people will claim to be the king of the world and of *our* own world (i.e. my life). * “Be on guard, keep awake” (v.33, 34, 35, 37) = Stay alert, do not fall asleep, pay attention. In other words, pay ultimate attention to who you follow and give your ultimate trust. |
| Possible illustrations:   * *False alert*: Show a video of the recent false alert (that came via phone notification – show your phone) of a missile attack on Hawaii. Ask the question: How would you feel? What would you do? Who should we trust? Video link [HERE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2JHgm3s49Wk) * *Bring your own religious symbols*: Your YL shirts, anything else you might have. Tell them that these (like the Temple) will not last through eternity. Ask: What is it that really matters? What really matters is our response to Jesus Christ. * Burger King crown: Use it to ask a question… Who is your king? Consider this video [HERE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yzqTFNfeDnE) to close your talk |

*For more details, see ylhelp.com*

Mark 13 (ESV)

**Jesus Foretells Destruction of the Temple**

**13**And as he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!” **2**And Jesus said to him, “Do you see these great buildings? There will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.”

**Signs of the End of the Age**

**3**And as he sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately, **4**“Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when all these things are about to be accomplished?” **5**And Jesus began to say to them, “See that no one leads you astray. **6**Many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray. **7**And when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. This must take place, but the end is not yet. **8**For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. These are but the beginning of the birth pains.

**9**“But be on your guard. For they will deliver you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them. **10**And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations. **11**And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. **12**And brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death. **13**And you will be hated by all for my name’s sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

**The Abomination of Desolation**

**14**“But when you see the abomination of desolation standing where he ought not to be (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. **15**Let the one who is on the housetop not go down, nor enter his house, to take anything out, **16**and let the one who is in the field not turn back to take his cloak. **17**And alas for women who are pregnant and for those who are nursing infants in those days! **18**Pray that it may not happen in winter. **19**For in those days there will be such tribulation as has not been from the beginning of the creation that God created until now, and never will be. **20**And if the Lord had not cut short the days, no human being would be saved. But for the sake of the elect, whom he chose, he shortened the days. **21**And then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘Look, there he is!’ do not believe it. **22**For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect. **23**But be on guard; I have told you all things beforehand.

**The Coming of the Son of Man**

**24**“But 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 in the heavens will be shaken. **26**And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. **27**And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

**The Lesson of the Fig Tree**

**28**“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. **29**So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. **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.

**No One Knows That Day or Hour**

**32**“But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. **33**Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. **34**It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. **35**Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning— **36**lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. **37**And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”