

**Mark 13:1-13**

**11/18/18**

The title for today's message is: **God's Gospel Must be Preached!**

Jesus said: ***And you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.***

Grace and peace to you from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

In the words of today's text there is a great sense of urgency. Truly these words spoken by Jesus to His disciples are very, very important.

Remember these words were spoken just a few days before Jesus would be crucified on the cross.

Look, Jesus knew that once He was crucified, the disciples would struggle with what to do next.

In the words of our text this morning, Jesus wanted His disciples to focus all their attention, not on the things around them that they have seen.

But on the spiritual things that would give them strength. Jesus wanted the disciples to focus on the great power of God's Word.

Today, we also celebrate the fact that God's Word is still powerful in our hearts and our lives.

Our text for today reminds us that: God's gospel must be preached. And that was exactly what Jesus wanted His disciples to realize and understand.

Look, no matter what Jesus was going to face, and no matter what the disciples would face, the fact remains, God's gospel must be preached.

And the gospel message is the same, it hasn't changed from the time of the Jesus to the present day, of the modern-day disciples.

God's gospel must be preached, yes the same Gospel that Jesus first taught. And Here in our text for today, Jesus gave us three reasons why.

One, there will be deceivers. Two, there will be many signs, and three, there will be deliverance.

Now Jesus and His disciples left the temple and went up to the Mount of Olives in order that Jesus might speak to them privately.

Jesus begins speaking to His disciples with a warning, He said: **See that no one leads you astray.**

Now Jesus continues to tell them: **Many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray.**

Yes, there will be men clamming to be Christ, putting themselves in Christ's place. Sadly, many will follow them.

In verse 9, Jesus told His disciples to be on guard at all times, because there will be many deceivers. Now notice He didn't say there may be many deceivers but there will be many.

And today, God's message is the same to each one of us, therefore God's gospel must be preached, there are still many deceivers today.

Its true, over the course of history, we have seen many deceivers come and go. Yes, God's gospel must be preached.

Many of these deceivers say that there is another way to heaven, that God's gospel is wrong.

Jim Jones, people follow him, even out of the country to South America, where they all died, and David Koresh he led people to Texas, where they too died.

The list goes on and on. Even today we still have the Rev. Sun Myung Moon, who by the way calls himself the Christ. He says, "I am the Messiah."

Yet, this self proclaimed messiah has been convicted of tax evasion, and has left the country, yet Moon still has thousands of followers. The list goes on and on.

Paul warns in 1 Corinthians chapter 11: **For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even**

***Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.***

But, God will help us through all this. God tells us: ***For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.***”

Now, we hear a lot about mega churches today, you know churches with thousands of members.

These are churches that take no doctrinal stand because they are too controversial.

And, for many of these church leaders, who have mega churches or small churches declare that the Kingdom of God is right there.

Okay, It may be there, but only part of it. The truth is God’s kingdom is not seen in the buildings, or in large or small numbers.

Simply put, God’s kingdom is inside of you and me and every believer in Christ.

When Jesus was asked by the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them: ***“The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed, nor will they say, ‘Look, here it is!’ or ‘There!’ for behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you.”***

Now the second reason why God’s Gospel must be preached is yet another warning. Jesus told His disciples that there will be signs, many signs.

Jesus said: ***For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.***

The disciples probably had no idea what that meant because Jerusalem wasn’t destroyed until the year 70 AD. Jesus gave this warning about the year 30-35 AD.

The temple was torn down, and there was nothing left of it. So in the lifetime of most of these disciples, they saw nation against nation and kingdom against kingdom.

God’s prophecy was fulfilled. Those were the signs Jesus told the disciples to look for. Yet there are more signs, Jesus said: ***There will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. These are but the beginning of the birth pains.***

Jesus says it’s only the beginning. Jesus speaks of these warnings to the disciples, not to scare them, but to prepare them, and you and I today.

Jesus said: ***And when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. This must take place, but the end is not yet.***

Certainly, once Jerusalem was destroyed, once the temple was torn down, they began to understand more clearly the Words Jesus spoke.

They heard about wars and rumors of wars. There were earthquakes, famine. That's right, in the time of the apostles, there were many signs that they saw.

When the disciples came out of the temple at the beginning of Mark chapter 13, one of the disciples said:

***And as he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!"***

To that Jesus said: ***"Do you see these great buildings? There will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down."***

God's word would last, the destruction of the temple was only one sign that judgment day was coming. Today there's many more signs.

Many today are tempted to look at the signs of nature, which are clearly evident as signs of the end times.

But the Lord wants us to look at spiritual signs, signs of people themselves, our relationships with one another, and our Nation as a whole.

Paul wrote in Romans chapter 8: ***For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.***

Here scripture describes the people who live in this world, that is you, me, and all of society, a place where sin and wickedness grows and increases.

My friends, the encouragement we have today is, to stand firm, be on our guard. Now like the disciples Jesus isn't trying to scare us here.

No! Jesus wanted His disciples and you and me today, to be ready and prepared for His return.

For the disciples, they had to be ready for the leaders of the church who disliked Jesus so much, that they condemned Him to death on a cross.

Jesus wanted His disciples to realize they, too, because of following Jesus, would not be liked either.

Jesus says to them: ***“But be on your guard. For they will deliver you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues,***

Wow! Another words, the disciples and believers today will stand before governors and kings for Jesus sake, and to bear witness before them.

And church tradition says only one disciple died a natural death. The rest were handed over to councils and beaten by the government and flogged in the synagogues.

Look, Paul and the disciples certainly came to realize that the gospel must be preached, because God had delivered them, to deliver that message.

That’s a huge responsibility, and likewise for you and I today. But just as the disciples, we too need not worry about what we say.

Jesus said: ***And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say,***

Here Jesus reminds them that God is with them. He said: ***but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.***

God will deliver them and all believers today. It’s true, God delivered Paul into the hands of his enemies, and he eventually died for the sake of God’s gospel.

God delivered 11 of the 12 apostles into the hands of those who did not like Jesus, they too were put to death for the sake of God’s Word.

But God had delivered them all in order to deliver a message. A message of salvation. Yes, God’s gospel must be preached.

And now, we’re the ones to do it, because God has given us, by His grace, His saving message just as He did for the apostles.

Luke said in Acts chapter 22: ***The God of our fathers appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from his mouth;*** (over)

***for you will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard.***

And Jesus said: ***And you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.*** Yes, God's gospel must be preached!

Amen.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all. Amen.