



5 Day Devotional

This five day devotional will be taking a deeper dive into the sermon from this weekend. We will reflect on the assurance and guidance that Jesus provides in times of uncertainty and change, drawing inspiration from the scriptures of Mark 13.

Day 1

Scripture: Mark 13:1-2

Our walk through Mark 13 begins with a visual tug-of-war—a disciple's admiration of the temple's grandeur, and Jesus' prophetic reply about its impending destruction. Through this exchange, Jesus calls us to focus on the eternal, not the temporal. For as impressive as human creations are, they pale in comparison to God's transcendent kingdom.

Jesus invites us to consider what foundations we are relying on: Are they the physical wonders we build and see, or the rock-solid promises of Christ? As we reflect on this question, we start to understand that our confidence and clarity in confusing times comes not from the grandiosity of our surroundings, but from our relationship with Jesus.

- Which human accomplishments tend to distract me from focusing on God's kingdom?
- How do I find comfort in Jesus' words amidst the impermanence of the world around me?
- In what ways does my life reflect a focus on the eternal rather than the temporal?

- Pray for discernment to identify and reduce distractions that take your focus away from God's will.

- Ask for a deeper understanding of the impermanence of worldly structures compared to the eternal kingdom of God.

Day 2

Scripture: Mark 13:3-4

Today, we sit with the disciples on the Mount of Olives, facing the temple and pondering Jesus' powerful foretelling. The request for signs reflects our own desire for clarity and control over the future. But Jesus is about to reshape their expectations, reminding us that it's not the timing or the signs that are crucial, but our trust in Him.

In a world brimming with distractions, it is our relationship with Christ that brings comfort and discernment. We are called not to predict the future but to walk with Jesus, trusting His words and growing in faith despite our need for immediate answers.

- Why do we often seek signs or specific answers about the future rather than trust in God's timing?
- How can I better cultivate a practice of trust in Jesus' guidance rather than my understanding?
- In what areas of my life do I need to relinquish control and allow Jesus to reset my expectations?

- Pray that you may find comfort in the unknown, finding peace in the mystery of God's plans.
- Seek wisdom and guidance in your daily life, trusting that Jesus' teaching surpasses our need for signs.

Day 3

Scripture: Mark 13:5-6

As we delve into the complexity of deception, Jesus warns us against being led astray by false prophets who might seem convincing. These distractions, appealing to our ego and desires, can divert us from the true path of Christ.

Recognition of falsehood is a foundational aspect of Christian growth. To avoid deception, we must stay grounded in our personal relationship with Jesus, knowing Him deeply and allowing His truth to reveal the genuine from the false.

- How can I better equip myself to recognize subtle deceptions in my spiritual journey?
- What role does remaining in Christ's word play in discerning truth from falsehood?
- How can my relationship with Jesus help me navigate through times when truth seems obscured by deception?

- Ask God to equip you with the discernment to identify and avoid false teachings that might lead you astray.
- Pray for a closer relationship with Jesus that anchors you in truth and shields you from deception.

Day 4

Scripture: Mark 13:7-8

Jesus speaks to us of disruptions—wars, rumors of wars, and the unease they bring. He counsels us not to be alarmed, as these are but the 'beginning of birth pains.' This metaphor reminds us that pain and discomfort

often precede new life and transformation.

In the midst of global and personal upheavals, we latch on to the hope that Jesus provides. His words reset our expectations, urging us not to be troubled, but to remain steadfast in our faith, looking forward to the birth of God's promises through adversity.

- What fears do I hold about global or local unrest, and how do they affect my faith?
- How can the metaphor of 'birth pains' reframe my perspective on difficulties and change?
- Where do I see God's transformative work occurring amidst the challenges I observe or experience?

- Pray for peace in your heart amidst the 'wars and rumors of wars' in our world today.
- Seek the fortitude to endure the 'beginning of birth pains,' trusting in the new life that God is bringing forth.

Day 5

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

In our final reflection, we journey with Paul's encouragement to the Thessalonians, paralleling Jesus' teachings in Mark. Paul urges vigilance and sobriety, embodying a state of spiritual wakefulness in anticipation of Christ's return.

As Christians, our hope is secure not in the knowledge of times and dates, but in our identity as children of light and day. We are empowered to live holily, to invest in kingdom realities, and to foster a community that is comforting and fortified by the gospel.

- How does living 'as children of light and day' influence my daily actions and decisions?
- In what ways can I be more alert and prepared for God's work in my life and the world?
- What practical steps can I take to embody vigilance and spiritual wakefulness?

- Pray for the wisdom to live as a child of the light, making choices that reflect your identity in Christ.
- Invite the Holy Spirit to keep you alert and watchful for God's active presence in your life and in the world.