

# FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY MADE

Devotion | Week 1 Day 5

## Be on Your Guard

"And as he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!" 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." And as he sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately, "Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign when all these things are about to be accomplished?" And Jesus began to say to them, "See that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray. And when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. This must take place, but the end is not yet. 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. "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. And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations. 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. 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. And you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved." - Mark 13:1-13

Jesus often spoke of the future during his ministry. Whether He was talking about his crucifixion and resurrection, the actions of His disciples, or the best places to cast fishing nets, Jesus spoke comfortably of things to come. Considering He is the Son of God and has been around since the beginning of time, you could say that He was vastly qualified to speak of the end times and the signs that would precede them.

The question is why? Why does Jesus tell us of the end times? It's not to brag, to prove himself knowledgeable, or get us worked up by trying to predict the time and date. It's all about preparing us for the lives we're living now. Jesus warns the disciples of the events of tomorrow to better equip us for living our lives today. The terminally ill patient lives with the goal of making the most of time that he has left. As Christians living in a terminally ill world, we too must live every moment in a manner that maximizes our opportunities to grow the Kingdom of God.

Knowing that Jesus' return could happen at any moment should motivate us as Christians to teach and to pray for those who still don't know their Savior. We can do this in big and small ways but in whichever way we choose, we do so understanding the great importance of the task at hand. We need not panic as we see the signs of the end around us. Some of the disciples who heard Jesus speak the words of Mark 13 were there to witness the destruction of the temple in 70 AD. But instead of sending them off the rails, the event confirmed the truth of Christ's statement. It does the same for us today. Live like there's no tomorrow, but know tomorrow is in the eternal grasp of God.