



## Taking Some Time to Reconnect with God

March 31, 2020

Prayer:

O Lord, no one on earth knows the hour of Your return. Only keep us watchful and awake, that we might always be at work in Your kingdom, for the sake of Jesus, amen.

Read: Mark 13: 14-23

**Mark 13:14-23** New International Version (NIV)

**14** “When you see ‘the abomination that causes desolation’ standing where it does not belong—let the reader understand—then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. **15** Let no one on the housetop go down or enter the house to take anything out. **16** Let no one in the field go back to get their cloak. **17** How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! **18** Pray that this will not take place in winter, **19** because those will be days of distress unequaled from the beginning, when God created the world, until now—and never to be equaled again.

**20** “If the Lord had not cut short those days, no one would survive. But for the sake of the elect, whom he has chosen, he has shortened them. **21** At that time if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Messiah!’ or, ‘Look, there he is!’ do not believe it. **22** For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. **23** So be on your guard; I have told you everything ahead of time.

Reflect:

I don’t know about you, but when I read the Scripture for today, my first response was, “Are you kidding me!?!” I need a word of hope, not. . .this. Not a description of suffering so terrible that Jesus calls it the worst that’s ever been from Creation itself, and worse than any that will ever be. Who needs that where we’re in the middle of a pandemic! We’re not running for the mountains; actually, it feels more like were hiding in our houses. But I still need a word of hope as we face this disaster with all it’s losses, large and small.

We could talk about the “abomination that causes desolation,” or about whether this sounds like the Gospel might be referring to historical events or something that hasn’t happened yet. We could talk about how we understand God’s will in this passage—did God preordain this to occur, or is this the result of human self-will gone horribly, horribly wrong? We could talk about any or all of those things, and it wouldn’t be a waste of our time. But just now, we need a word of hope.

We need a word of hope. So we look again to see what God is doing in this passage. In verse 20 we read, “If the Lord had not cut short those days, no one would survive. But for the sake of the elect, who He has chosen, He has shortened them.” For the sake of God’s people, this will not last forever. God will not allow this to overwhelm and destroy us all. God will not abandon us to this.

If God will not abandon us to those days, we can count on God not abandoning us in these days either. That’s what God is doing. That’s what God is doing in this passage, and what God is doing in our lives as well. In this, God gives us hope.

What do you do in light of the hope God gives us?

Be Blessed;

May you find peace in the life of day to day, trusting that God will keep you in the fold even at the end. Amen.