



## Taking Some Time to Reconnect with God

March 30, 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 13:9-13

Mark 13:9-13 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>9</sup> “You must be on your guard. You will be handed over to the local councils and flogged in the synagogues. On account of me you will stand before governors and kings as witnesses to them. <sup>10</sup> And the gospel must first be preached to all nations. <sup>11</sup> Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit.

<sup>12</sup> “Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child. Children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. <sup>13</sup> Everyone will hate you because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.

### Reflect:

Somethings a person just doesn't look forward to. Especially the big stuff. You know what I mean. Most of us don't look forward to a traffic ticket, or to stubbing our toe on the bed, but there's a whole other category, things that are exponentially worse. COVID-19 has got to be one of those things (Thank You, Captain Obvious).

So is Apocalypse. Mark 13 is all about Apocalypse: When, Where, What. Verses 9-13 are a part of the What: What will it be like, what can we expect, what will happen leading up to it. It makes us feel like the end of time is pretty traumatic.

This piece of Mark's Gospel starts off quite uncomfortably, but then settles into a description of our part as followers of Jesus. We will be called to stand as witnesses. Especially witnesses to people in power. We're also reminded that because it's God's story to which we are witnesses, we can count on God to give us the words that we'll need.

The other side of that is as witnesses, we're bound to tell what it is that we've seen and heard in Jesus. The story is what we've experienced of the truth of God at work in the world. So we can't spin it to make it more palatable, more attractive, more popular. We're stuck with the truth. And we're stuck with how folks will react to the truth (there's a movie line about people not being able to “handle the truth”. . .).

This is our part as followers of Jesus. We witness to what we've seen and heard of God. And we count on the Holy Spirit to accomplish what God wants to accomplish through our witness in that moment. One other thing; we witness until the Good News about God's intent for the universe is shared with everyone. Because here's the thing: What God wants about all else is to gather us all together. That's God's goal and desire for all of us and for everything. And God invites us to be a part of that work in the world.

Where have you seen God at work in the world and to whom are you called to tell about it?

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.