



Warm up question:

- Have you ever needed to defend your faith? What did you say? If you haven't had to defend your faith – what would you say if you did need to?

Read Mark 13:1-13

1. What have the disciples just witnessed inside the temple? How is this contrasted with what the disciples are impressed with in verse 1?
2. What does Jesus' response reveal about things that matter?
3. Where is Jesus and the disciples sitting in verse 3? Why is this place significant? (See Zechariah 14:1-9, Mark 11:1-11, Mark 14:32-50, Acts 1:9-12)
4. Why might Peter, James, John and Andrew be asking Jesus the question in verse 4 privately?
5. What things does Jesus call "the beginning of birth pains"? (Verses 5-8)
6. Why do you think Jesus calls them "birth pains"?
7. Why does Jesus tell us not to be alarmed at these things?
8. In verses 9-13, Jesus moves on to talking about things that will happen to the disciples (and to us). What things do we need to watch out for?
9. Why is it important that Jesus warned us about these things?
10. What does Jesus tell us that we must do in verse 13?

Rubber hits the road:

- How would you summarise this passage to a friend who asks you about the end of the world?
- How do you remain alert but not fearful as you look to the future?

PRAYER

Living God, you alone are eternal. Forgive us for those times that we are amazed by the things of this world, and neglect to praise and be amazed by you. In the midst of natural disasters, wars, persecution and heartache, please give us courage to look to you, find our rest in your presence and to be faithful in our discipleship. By your grace, strengthen us to stand firm and preach your good news wherever we may be. In Jesus' name, Amen.

