



Small Groups
February 13 - February 19, 2012
"Always True" (Mark 13)

➤ **Insight: Read Mark 13**

It is common to read this chapter and ask, "is Jesus predicting the end of the world?". While Jesus certainly does speak into the future as he acknowledges the past, the real teaching in this passage helps us to focus on the present. In fact, the last words in verse 8 of Mark 13 are likely the key verse to understanding. "These are the beginning of birth pains". This helps us to see the big picture, and gain understanding into Jesus words regarding the Temple and heaven in ways that not only shaped the faith of the Disciples and first century Christians, but shape our faith today. In 70AD the Temple was destroyed, which would have been seen as a world catastrophe with political, economic and religious impact. The disciples were instructed to "look to Jesus" as these events would unfold. The same instruction comes to us today, to remain focused on Jesus as our world experiences the "birth pains" of His promised coming.

➤ **Application: Opening our lives to God's Word and one another**

- What structures and systems give us a sense of security today in ways the Temple would have symbolized security in Jesus teaching?

- How are our hearts and minds drawn to "rely" on these securities in place of Jesus himself?

- Read Mark 10:45 and 13:23-27. How do these verses together hold our own inner tension as Christ's coming will bring both judgment and mercy? What emotions do these tensions bring to your mind?
- Read Mark 13:32-37. What significance and application do the words and phrases "Beware, keep alert", "keep awake", "he may find you asleep" have in our faith and lives today in 2012?
- Read 1 Corinthians 15:24-28. Ultimately God is and will "be all in all". How do we order our lives today as disciples of Jesus to allow our trust and security to be built on the Kingdom of God?

➤ **Support: Committing our prayers for one another in trust to God**

- Chris encouraged us to "stay on target", Jesus said "stand firm". Please share what that could mean for you this coming week. How can this group pray for you?
- What other prayer requests would you like this group to commit to pray with you?

➤ **Prayer Requests**

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