

**Bono and Jesus are Coming Soon**  
**FPC**  
**Dan Chun**  
**March 18, 2007**

Mark 13:1 ¶ As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!”

Mark 13:2 Then Jesus asked him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.”

Mark 13:3 ¶ When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately,

Mark 13:4 “Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?”

Mark 13:5 Then Jesus began to say to them, “Beware that no one leads you astray.

Mark 13:6 Many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray.

Mark 13:7 When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come.

Mark 13:8 For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birthpangs.

Mark 13:9 “As for yourselves, beware; for they will hand you over to councils; and you will be beaten in synagogues; and you will stand before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them.

Mark 13:10 And the good news must first be proclaimed to all nations.

Mark 13:11 When they bring you to trial and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say; but say whatever is given you at that time, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.

Mark 13:12 Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death;

Mark 13:13 and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

Mark 13:14 “But when you see the desolating sacrilege set up where it ought not to be (let the reader understand), then those in Judea must flee to the mountains;

Mark 13:15 the one on the housetop must not go down or enter the house to take anything away;

Mark 13:16 the one in the field must not turn back to get a coat.

Mark 13:17 Woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing infants in those days!

Mark 13:18 Pray that it may not be in winter.

Mark 13:19 For in those days there will be suffering, such as has not been from the beginning of the creation that God created until now, no, and never will be.

Mark 13:20 And if the Lord had not cut short those days, no one would be saved; but for the sake of the elect, whom he chose, he has cut short those days.

Mark 13:21 And if anyone says to you at that time, ‘Look! Here is the Messiah!’ or ‘Look! There he is!’—do not believe it.

Mark 13:22 False messiahs and false prophets will appear and produce signs and omens, to lead astray, if possible, the elect.

Mark 13:23 But be alert; I have already told you everything.

Mark 13:24 “But in those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

Mark 13:25 and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Mark 13:26 Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory.

Mark 13:27 Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

Mark 13:28 ¶ “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near.

Mark 13:29 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates.

Mark 13:30 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place.

Mark 13:31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Mark 13:32 ¶ “But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

Mark 13:33 Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come.

Mark 13:34 It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.

Mark 13:35 Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn,

Mark 13:36 or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly.

Mark 13:37 And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

Last November, I got a strange call. The caller who is a friend said that he would like me to organize a dinner for Rick Warren and his wife, Bill Hybels and his wife, my wife Pam and I are invited...and there was a chance, though small that Bono, the lead singer of the group U2 would be there with his staff from DATA an organization who helps the poor.

So, he asked, could I organize the dinner at a nice private place?

Could I organize it at a nice, place with great food? How about here at Ko’olau? He said fine. He would get back to me on the details but go ahead and plan it.

Having the Hybels and the Warrens here would be great Bill Hybels is the pastor of Willow Creek Community Church a huge church in Illinois. Rick Warren is the author of the Purpose Drive Life and pastor of Saddleback Community Church...but Bono of U2 here? No way!

Bono - The *Time Magazine* Man of the year in 2005 with Bill and Melinda Gates?  
Bono – The man who is trying to get people to help the poor and raise millions of dollars for the poor.

Bono – The leader of one of the great rock and roll bands of all time.

Suddenly, church staff members were saying...hey, Dan, I just want to be a team player for you, and support you anyway I can. Can I help waiter that night? (Well, gosh, what a servant’s heart, well sure).

Others said, hey Dan, it's my night off, but I would be glad to be there just to make sure things go well because I know you like things to go well....other said, hey, you might need my help pouring water. I'm there for you man.

Ko'olau staff were saying....hey, I got your back. I'm there for you pastor.

There was excitement in the air. Bono was coming. At a dinner at our church...the night before his concert here last December.

There was a rush of anticipation...an energy in the atmosphere...a thrill, a buzz, enthusiasm.

Bono was in Hawaii years ago and now Bono is coming again...but more importantly - right here!

After hearing our Bible passage read today, It doesn't take a rocket scientist to see where I am going with this.

Bono is just a human...a "way-better-than –the-average" rock and roll star who has a compassionate heart.

But.....he is nothing like Jesus the Messiah, the Christ.

Would we.....do we have the same excitement knowing that Jesus is coming back...and it could be tomorrow?

If we were to do a pop quiz on our emotions...what would we FEEL if we knew for a certainty that Jesus is coming back?

A thrill?...a yippee?...a fear?...a dread of oh noooo...He's back again?

When we hear the line – wait till your father comes home....depending on our relationship with your dad right then, it can be good news or bad news.

It can mean.....you did something wrong and wait till Dad hears about it and he will punish you.

Or it can mean you have a great relationship with your father or you did something great...and it's, wait till Dad comes home and he will celebrate with you, congratulate you, and he will be so happy and proud of you.

So it is when we hear the words...Jesus is coming again...and it could be tomorrow....that might mean good news or bad news for some of us.

For when Jesus comes it is the end of saying what we WOULD do some day for Him when we had time.

When Jesus comes, it is no longer time for excuses.

When Jesus comes

it is too late for

I

shoulda  
woulda  
coulda

done that for God...when Jesus comes back it is the moment of truth.

No more time to say here is what I was planning to do when I retired  
...here is what I was going to do when I had time in my calendar or the money I  
was going to give when I had more.

We don't talk about this much...but Jesus is coming back! He told us that. He  
keeps promises. And it could be tomorrow. And He is coming.

And if that is true....how would that change our life today....or has apathy trapped  
us like quicksand...or the tar pits of La Brea....and we think who cares?

It's a long passage that was read today and even longer in Mark 13 of what was  
not read....let me give a historical biblical context and then let's apply it to our lives.

Here's the background - Jesus is not giving us a clear map but He is using  
images and pictures familiar to his Jewish readers. We do know that History is HIS  
STORY...and that it all ends in the final consummation of the return of Christ.

The First point is that Jesus is coming back. He promises that. It's a certainty.  
Not IT but WHEN.

Second of all, it is really clear that though Jesus is coming back we don't know  
when that is. Jesus says He doesn't know and the angels don't know but the Father God  
does.

And as happens often in the Bible, the writers talk about future events but it is not  
always chronological...not always linear –like this will happen and then 6 months later  
this will happen and then 10 years later this will happen and then on a Tuesday at 3pm  
this will happen.

Doesn't work that way.

HOWEVER, the Bible IS clear about the signs of Jesus' return...but it's more like  
looking at stars at night who are assembled in a constellation....like Orion.

Each star represents a coming event that Jesus told us that would happen before  
His coming but like looking at stars we can't tell with the naked eye which ones are  
closer to us or farther away.

Betelgeuse – the most famous star in the constellation and the 9<sup>th</sup> brightest star  
to our knowledge is 427 light years away...but Rigel is 773 light years and there is one  
that is 32,600 lightyears away. Yet some of the stars though duller are really closer and  
some that are brightest are really father away.

They all fit into a picture of a constellation but the naked eye can't say...oh, on Orion's belt that left star is a 1000 light years closer than the one on the upper left.

When we look at a landscape on the horizon we can't always tell which tree is closer or farther...or which mountain slope is closer or farther.

That is how it is with the events leading up to the Last Days.

But Jesus does say that these certain events have or will happen. Some seem more descriptive or immanent or brighter....but in truth they may still be more distant in history's time line that is yet to come.

Here are some thing that Jesus said will happen before His coming back.

Desecration of the Temple in Jerusalem. This did happen in 168 bc when Antiochus Epiphanes, a Syrian ruler, sacrificed a pig to Zeus on the sacred temple altar, thus inciting the famous Macabbean revolt.

Miraculously a small band of zealots annihilated the Syrian army and rededicated the desecrated temple to God. Today this victory is celebrated by Jews at Hannukah, the feast of lights.

In 70 AD the temple was again desecrated by the Romans and, this time, it was totally destroyed.

The Fall of the Temple is one of the signs before Jesus returns.

More signs –

There will be people betraying each other.

Persecution

False Teachers – who claim to be the Messiah or representing Jesus

Wars and rumors of wars.

Earthquakes.

Nature will be altered due to the sin of humankind – Jesus described it as

Mark 13:24 “But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light,

Mark 13:25 and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Some think this is either an environmental catastrophe or a nuclear holocaust.

A lot of these signs could already have been fulfilled either in Hiroshima, Nagasaki, nuclear tests or global warming or shifts that cause hurricanes, and earthquakes

Here's a challenge question – What would we FEEL if we knew that Jesus is coming back tomorrow?

If it is guilt....then today is a chance to accept God's forgiveness and live a life that would free us from guilt. Live a life of doing His will. A time to turn away from apathy. A time to make sure our time, talent and treasure is being totally devoted to

If it is a feeling of complacency – then consider this -  
Act like Jesus is coming tomorrow!  
What does that mean?  
Devote your time, talent and treasure to Him.  
Forgive because life is too short not to.  
Show unconditional love. Make up. Reconcile.  
Love the unlovable and the oppressed because Jesus said that is THE criterion to see what our heart is like when He returns.

It can't get any clearer of how we should be living when Jesus returns when He says these words. If you want to know what you should be involved in doing when Jesus comes back here this. And know that the term the Son of Man is a term that Jesus liked to use for Himself.

Here Jesus' the words of Jesus Himself:

Matt. 25:31 ¶ “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory.

Matt. 25:32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats,

Matt. 25:33 and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left.

Matt. 25:34 Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world;

Matt. 25:35 for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me,

Matt. 25:36 I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’

Matt. 25:37 Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink?’

Matt. 25:38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing?’

Matt. 25:39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’

Matt. 25:40 And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’

Matt. 25:41 Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels;

Matt. 25:42 for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink,

Matt. 25:43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'

Matt. 25:44 Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?'

Matt. 25:45 Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.'

Matt. 25:46 And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Is it not interesting that of all of the criteria for the best lifestyle...or the test of if we are truly followers of Christ it He could choose from – it was are you compassionate to the poor. ?

Compassion Sunday is coming next Sunday. The President of Compassion International will be here – Wess Stafford.

After the third service we will be dedicating a mural that will inform and encourage us to have a heart for the poor.

On the opposite side of that mural will be a wall with pictures of the hundreds of the Compassion Children that have been sponsored by our members.

And if you by chance have sponsored a child through another organization like HIM or another church and now attend here...we would be glad to put your child's picture up if you could come next week with your sponsor ID and your child's name and ID and we will send a list of names of children to Compassion so that your pictures can be added.

Be here to consider what it means to truly love poor children.

Will there be a kid with you in heaven that you can say....look Jesus I did at least this?

In closing – Final justice is coming...Jesus will make things right after all of the wrong done to you.

He will reward the good and yes, it is pay back for the bad. No time for bargaining then.

This life is really all preparation for the next life. Jesus said this is not the end deal living here on earth just for ourselves to collect toys.

He told us that we should be seeking the rewards that come in heaven.

He told us to build those treasures up for the next life.  
He told us to keep awake! Be alert to the ways of Jesus.

Now He returns and says, “See I was serious and I was trying to tell you earlier.  
I love you, and hope you listened.”

If you are not sure about Jesus...then be more intentional in determining if Jesus was truly who He is. Study up on him with books or go to the website called [jesus-institute.com](http://jesus-institute.com) where you can have an online study about the person of Jesus.

If you are sure about Jesus – then live like you mean it...as a true follower of Jesus.

For Jesus is coming back...and may your heart be glad to hear of this.

Amen.