

Title: FAITH THAT SEES THE FUTURE, MARK 13:1-8
(Chatham, NJ; 11/18/12, AM) [Pd – Devotional]

Theme: Jesus warns the disciples of the coming disaster but challenges them to have faith.

Purpose: To challenge the church to continue on in faith, knowing that God has not abandoned his Kingdom plans.

Introduction:

1. The Olivet Discourse exposes the disciples to the coming catastrophe, but in so doing Jesus also challenges them to see God's working out their salvation.
2. Luke's version suggests to us that most people will continue on as if no judgment will come upon them, Luke 17:26-30.
3. Yet judgment does indeed come; more importantly salvation comes for those with faith that can see the hand of God.

I. Hannah trusts God, 1 Samuel 1:4-20

- The period of the Judges was a restless and rebellious one, Judges 21:25.
- The story of the redemption of David's lineage is part of this time, Book of Ruth
- Hannah's story and the birth of Samuel also comes during this time
- I suspect it was hard to see the hand of God in much of the events, but both Ruth and Hannah testify to God's work and intervention in history
- Hannah turns to God in anguish; he responds, 1 Sam. 1:10-20
- God heard the prayer of faith and anguish

Song:

II. David's Moment of Darkness, 1 Samuel 30:1-6

- David has been living among the Philistines, an exile from his own country
- Though he has been anointed King, he has had to run from Saul
- In this chapter he had been away from his camp and when he returned everything had been taken including the wives of his men
- Compounding the problem is the attitude of his own men, verse 6
- The profile of these men wasn't good to begin with, 1 Sam. 22:1-2
- Now he has nowhere else to turn, except to God
- Fortunately he has been in the habit of doing this all along: David's faith was well-known
- God delivers him

Song:

III. Can We See the Army of God? 2 Kings 6:8-16

- Elisha has been warning the King of Israel of the King of Syria's troop movements
- Well before satellite observations, Syria wondered who the spy was among them, 11
- He seeks out Elisha to kill him; they surrounded the city, 14
- Elisha's servant panics, 15
- The prophet utters a memorable phrase, "Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them."
- Do we believe this? Even in spite of what appears to be a hopeless situation?

Conclusion: Take these stories to heart. When disaster strikes, as it would in Mark 13, the disciple must assert his faith. God always provides a way.