

## Lent Study 2020

*“Yes Jesus, but...” – the disciple’s reactions to Jesus’ last week of teaching*

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### SMALL GROUP LESSON 2

*Based on Sermon from 3/8/20*

**“Yes Jesus, but this world is impressive, isn’t it? (Mark 13:1-37)**

#### Isn’t the Temple Impressive?

**Read Mark 13:1-2 and read this description of the temple:**

*“Herod enlarged Solomon’s temple to an esplanade measuring some 325 meters wide by 500 meters long, with a circumference of nearly a mile. The immense thirty-five-acre enclosure could accommodate twelve football fields. The southeast corner of the retaining wall hung some fifteen stories above the ground that sloped down to the Kidron Valley. The blocks of stone used in construction were enormous; Josephus (War 5.189) reports that some were forty cubits (approximately sixty feet) in length. No block that size has been found in the existing foundation, but stones north of Wilson’s Arch measure forty-two feet long, eleven feet high, fourteen feet deep, and weigh over a million pounds. The magnitude of the temple mount and the stones used to construct it exceed in size any other temple in the ancient world.”<sup>1</sup>*

**Question: What great accomplishments of our world are we most impressed by?**

**Question: What great accomplishments in our own lives are we most impressed by?**

**Question: When you look at your life, are you spending more time dealing with things of lasting value or things that will pass away?**

**Read these passages and discuss how they help us** how to think about our earthly possessions, interests, and accomplishments:

Matthew 6:19 \_\_\_\_\_

Ecclesiastes 1:14 \_\_\_\_\_

Luke 12:22-31 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Corinthians 10:31 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Timothy 6:17 \_\_\_\_\_

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<sup>1</sup> Edwards, J. R. (2002). [\*The Gospel according to Mark\*](#) (p. 387). Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England: Eerdmans; Apollos.

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### Jesus is Coming Back

Read together Mark 13:3-37:

Question: What about this passage is difficult or frightening?

Question: What excites you about the idea of Jesus coming back?

Question: How does the idea of Jesus coming back affect your day-to-day life? Do you ever think about it? Why or why not?

Question: What does it mean to you to be ready for Jesus’ return, to keep watch and keep alert? From the passage, what are we to be watching for?

Question: What are you not at peace about right now? How does knowing Jesus is coming back help speak to that situation?

Discuss this quote from St. Theresa of Avila:

*From heaven even the most miserable life will look like one bad night at an inconvenient hotel. –Saint Theresa of Avila (1515-1582)*

### Our “Yes Jesus, Buts”

At the close of the sermon, the five statements below were made.

Question: Which of these “Yes Jesus, but...” statements are you more likely to say? Discuss what you think or feel about what Jesus says to that.

1. We say, “Yes Jesus, but... this world and everything I’m doing is so important and impressive”
  - **Jesus says to us** – this world is ending, invest in things that really matter
2. We say, “Yes Jesus, but... I’m so busy right now, all I can think about is my work and my family

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- **Jesus says to us** – my kingdom is now, so live heavenly minded, remember that the only things that will last are what you do for me
  
- 3. We say, “Yes, Jesus, but... I’m so worried about this virus, or of cancer, or of terrorism, or of shootings, or of all the bad things that are happening”
  - Jesus says to us – I have your life in my hands, and the lives of all those who love. Do not walk in fear. I have prepared a place for you, and this life is just an instant compared to the beautiful eternity I have planned for you.
  
- 4. We say, “Yes Jesus, but... I’ll think about you coming back right after I finish my great vacation in Florida”
  - Jesus says to us – look forward to my coming more than your next vacation! I’m coming back. And it will be the most glorious moment, better than any vacation you could imagine.
  
- 5. We say, “Yes Jesus, but... I’ll think about following you, and preparing for the end later - I’m young, I have years ahead of me, I’ll get serious about my faith when I’m older”
  - **Jesus says to us** – Be ready, I could come at any time, any time at all. Make sure your soul is ready.

### FOR PRAYER

As you share prayer requests, think about sharing:

- Things of lasting value that you would like to invest in (rather than things that will pass away)
- How to become more aware of heaven and live in light of that reality
- Any “Yes Jesus, but...” statements that you would like to stop saying!