

(In preparation for gathered worship next week, March 22, 2009)

## Mark 13:1-23

22<sup>nd</sup> March 2009

The saddest note of history is that not everyone eagerly welcomes the kingdom of God. Some prefer their own agendas.

The most surprising note of history is that God doesn't force people to accept his agenda. He gives them over to their preferences. But there are consequences for choosing an alternative agenda, natural consequences, devastating consequences.

In a sermon delivered on the Mount of Olives, Jesus gives us insight *into the future*. He pulls back the veil on what will happen when people pursue their agenda instead of God's.

- 1) Catastrophe! That's what happens when people turn away from God. What exactly will it look like? Look at verses 1-2.
  
- 2) Naturally, the disciples want to know when the catastrophe will occur (verse 4). What answer does Jesus give? See verses 5-8.
  
- 3) How will the coming catastrophe effect believers? See verses 9-13.
  
- 4) In your own words, describe the horrific nature of the coming catastrophe. See verses 14-22. How will the Lord respond to the catastrophe? See verse 20.
  
- 5) Does the catastrophe alter God's goals for his kingdom? See verse 10. How should a believer respond amidst the tribulation? See verses 9 and 23.
  
- 6) When do you think the catastrophe will strike? Or has it already come? Or is it a thing of the past *and* an event of the future? Explain.