

# Follow – Walking in the Way of Jesus

Already. Not Yet.

Mark 13:1-8

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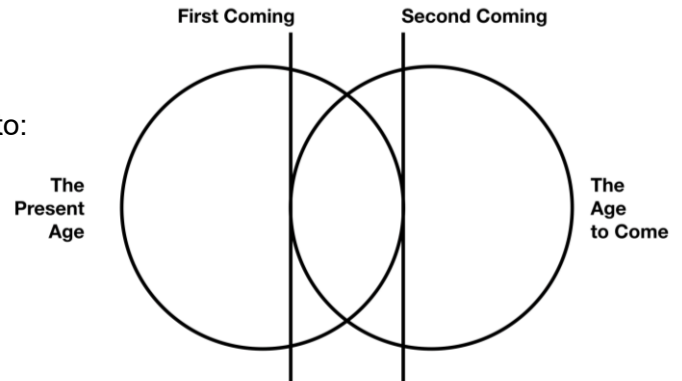
May 31st, 2026



Christians are called to interpret current events through the lens of Christ's Kingdom, not reinterpret Christ's Kingdom through the lens of current events.

**The Two Ages** - In Biblical thinking, history is often divided into:

1. **The Present Age** marked by; sin, death, suffering, rebellion, brokenness
2. **The Age to Come** marked by; resurrection, justice, peace, renewal, God's complete reign



Many expected the transition between these ages to happen ALL AT ONCE when the Messiah came.

Mark 13 — APOCALYPTIC Teaching Is PASTORAL: Jesus is not feeding speculation. He is preparing disciples for endurance. The goal is not PREDICTION. The goal is faithful PERSEVERENCE.

**First Warning: Deception (vv.5–6)** The greatest danger is not war or PERSECUTION. It is DECEPTION.

False messiahs/PROPHETS will:

- EXPLOIT fear
- CLAIM certainty
- PROMISE rescue
- MISINTERPRET events

Discipleship Implication: Fear makes people vulnerable to false certainty.

**Wars and Upheaval Are Not the End (vv.7–8)** Chaos Does Not Mean God Has Lost Control - Wars and disasters are not evidence of divine absence. They are reminders: the world is fractured and awaiting renewal. Critical Meaning: These events are not proof that HISTORY is COLLAPSING uncontrollably.

**Disciples Must Learn Discernment** Not every crisis is “the end.”

Kingdom maturity requires:

- Patience – Refusal to be Compelled by panic when things are unpredictable
- Wisdom – Refusal to be Confused by various interpretations of events
- Sobriety – Refusal to be Controlled by emotions and behaviours that are antithetical to faith & trust

**Assess:**

1. When cultural, political, or global events create fear in me, do I become more prayerful and discerning, or more reactive, anxious, and certain?  
*Kingdom maturity is revealed by emotional steadiness, not emotional escalation.*
2. Am I more shaped by the way of Jesus or by the voices, algorithms, and outrage of the culture around me?  
*Discernment asks who is forming my imagination, fears, and hopes.*
3. When I encounter uncertainty, do I deepen my trust in Christ, or do I grasp for simplistic answers, ideological certainty, or human saviours?  
*Spiritually mature disciples can endure ambiguity without surrendering to panic or false certainty.*

**Date: May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026**

**Series: Follow – Walking In the Way of Jesus**

**Title: Already. Not Yet.**

**Primary Passage: Mark 13:1-8**

**Secondary Passage: Romans 8:19-21**

**Big Question: How does Jesus want us to interpret the events of our time?**

**Big Idea: The instability of the world is not proof that God is absent, but a reminder that disciples must remain awake, discerning, and faithful while awaiting the true King.**

**Keywords: Already, Not Yet, Present, Coming, Age, Warning, Discernment, Patience, Wisdom, Sobriety**

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## **GOING Deeper – Life Application Questions**

What makes you anxious? What do you do when you're anxious?

When you think about the current cultural moment (politics, war, social media, economic uncertainty, technology, etc.), what emotions tend to rise in you most naturally — fear, anger, confusion, hope, numbness, urgency? Why do you think that is?

- What kinds of voices or sources most shape how you interpret what is happening in the world?
- Do you think modern culture encourages discernment or reaction?

Read Mark 13:1–8. Jesus' first warning is not about persecution or disaster, but deception. Why do you think deception is the first and greatest danger Jesus identifies?

- What kinds of false certainty or false "saviours" exist in our culture today?
- Why do people become vulnerable to simplistic answers during unstable times?
- What does Jesus mean when He says wars and upheaval are "not yet the end"?

Christians are called to interpret current events through the lens of Christ's Kingdom, not reinterpret Christ's Kingdom through the lens of current events. What is the difference between those two approaches?

- How can fear distort our understanding of Scripture?
- Have you ever seen Christians become more reactive than discerning during cultural crises?
- Why is emotional steadiness an important part of spiritual maturity?

What practical habits help cultivate discernment and emotional steadiness in your life?

- How does friendship and Christian community protect us from deception?
- Why is serving others an important antidote to fear and obsession?
- What would it look like for you to become less reactive and more faithfully present this week?

What is one area of fear, confusion, or false certainty that you need to surrender to Christ right now?

Pray for: discernment, emotional steadiness, freedom from fear, wisdom in confusing times, and faithful presence in the world as people of hope.