

**Sunday, November 14, 2021 – Easter Hill United Methodist Church**

**Bible Study – Mark 13:1-8  
“Not One Stone”**

Open with a word of prayer

**Gathering Time** (5-10 minutes) In pairs or groups of three, share an experience of experiencing wonder or appreciation for a manmade marvel (a building, art, etc.).

**Mark 13:1-8. Context.** This week's reading begins a new "chapter," where, on the eve of the great Jewish celebration of God's liberating power, Jesus foretells the destruction of the Temple - unimaginable in Jesus' day, but after 70 AD a tragic reality. Jesus' words in this passage are both a confirmation of his prophetic stature, as well as a warning not to think that the chaos in which the early Christian community found itself during and after the Jewish Wars (66-70) was the great apocalyptic turmoil of the coming of the Kingdom that would swiftly and unambiguously bring them to peace and security.

**Read Mark 13:1-8**

What touches your heart, what do you hear in the scripture, what questions do you have, or what doesn't make sense to you in the story?

Write down your thoughts or share your thoughts with the person or group you are with.

**Read Mark 13:1-8 again.**

**Some reflection questions – Write down your thoughts or share your thoughts with the person or group you are with.**

**Group Dialogue:**

- How do you imagine the disciples responded to Jesus' declaration that the great buildings would be thrown down (v. 2)?
- Why do you think people are still overly fascinated about the timing of the “end times”?
- How is this passage about who we trust and follow? (Note verses 5 and 6)
- How can we disciples today be discerning about who we follow?
- How can wisdom and discernment give us perspective on the seemingly chaotic events that we encounter? How will this help us to live a life that matters?

### **Closing Reflection Question**

How is this scripture calling you to change, to see, to be or what might it be calling you to do?

**Prayer** (10 minutes). Each person prays sharing their answer the following statements:

I ask God for....

I thank God for.....

**Sending Forth** (2 minutes). After all, have shared, pray the closing prayer. Ask for a volunteer to lead the group or read the following prayer in unison:

Faithful God, we confess that there have been times when we have been tempted to trust in the ways of this world. Yet, we know you are faithful, even when we are faithless. Through the Holy Spirit, guide us, convict us, lead us where you would have us to follow. Help our trust to remain steadfast in your love. **Amen.**

And now we pray The Lord's Prayer....

Our Father who art in Heaven

hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,

on earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power

and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.