

Summer 2020



Mark 13:31

31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

Reflection

Welcome to the second talk in our Summer Series for A Year With Jesus. Over Summer, for the next six weeks our daily devotions will be a little shorter, and we'll be doing just five a week, from Monday to

Friday, to keep in step with the busy holiday season. The passages that we've chosen are some of our favourite verses from the Bible, the type of verses that make for excellent memory verses. So in addition to reflecting and praying over these passages of Scripture with us, why not try and commit some of them to memory? Yesterday our verse was Philippians 4:8 and today it's Mark 13:31.

I read recently that in our best estimations there have been 108 billion human beings to have ever lived. 108 billion. That's such a big number and we feel quite insignificant when we consider ourselves amongst such a vast multitude. And yet some people stand out, don't they?

Like Steve Jobs, may he rest in peace,

he changed the world. Most of us carry around a tribute to him in our pockets. He changed the world, Apple computers, mobile phones, Pixar, the music industry, the world will never be the same thanks to Steve Jobs – but how long do you think we'll remember him? How long do you think his name will last?

Or Mark Zuckerberg, who invented Facebook, social media, he changed the world, but how long do you think we'll remember him? Maybe a generation? How long before his face becomes just another face in the billions of people in history?

Tim Berners-Lee, ever heard of him? He invented the internet only 27 years ago, but most people don't even know his name. Barack Obama, the first African

American US president, how long before he becomes just a couple of paragraphs in a history textbook that our children will be forced to read.

108 billion people. Forgotten in history, the greatest amongst them maybe remembered for a generation or two.

All except one man. He's bigger today than he's ever been. Time magazine recently named him the most significant person in human history. His name is Jesus. He's number one out of 108 billion. One in 108 billion. 108 billion people and he's right up the top. Why is that do you think?

Well, one of the reasons is found in today's passage, Mark 13:31, it's an easy one to remember,

31 Heaven and earth will pass away,
but my words will never pass away.

These words were spoken by Jesus almost 2,000 years ago and with every year that passes they become more powerful as they are proved more true.

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Jesus' words, God's words, have been with us for almost 2,000 years, carefully preserved, handed down, century after century. Even today, and especially today, people are dying to protect them, dying to see them shared with people from every nation because God's word is humankind's most precious possession. It's your

most precious possession and mine. God's word is so precious because it's the way that the God of the universe has chosen to have relationship with us, the way he's chosen to reveal himself to us. And because of the unbreakable promises that it contains. In his word God offers us a relationship that will never end through promises that will last forever because,

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but my words will never pass away.

One day heaven and earth will pass away, the bible says that the heavens will roll up like a scroll (Isa 34:4; Rev 6:14), the earth on which we live will be remade (Isa 65:17; Rev 21:1), and yet the Jesus' words will never pass away, they will remain forever.

Think & Pray

Try and commit these thirteen words to memory this morning. Mark 13:31,

31 Heaven and earth will pass away,
but my words will never pass away.

And as you do so, perhaps consider if God's words are your most precious possession. In the ups and downs of life they are the one constant, he is the one constant, his promises are the one constant. All else may fail but his words will never fail.

God's words are unchanging, they're forever, they're our confidence and joy. Is it so with you? Thank God this morning for his word and pray that you'll enjoy him

through it more than ever in this year to come.