“Blessed be the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, now and forevermore.”

We are living in the final days times that Scripture refers to as “perilous” (2 Timothy 3:1). This makes it all the more urgent for us to deeply understand the things that concern our salvation. Casual faith will not prepare us for what’s ahead. We must pursue Christ with intention, discernment, and spiritual maturity.

Let us reflect on a moment from the life of Jesus that carries a profound spiritual lesson.

Mark 9:30–31 (NIV)

> “They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, because he was teaching his disciples. He said to them, ‘The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise.’”

This passage reveals a striking detail: Jesus deliberately avoided public attention, even in a place like Galilee where He had

previously performed many miracles and drawn great crowds (see Mark 1:39, Matthew 4:23–25). The reason? He wanted undistracted time to teach His disciples.

This points to an important spiritual truth: There are seasons when Jesus reveals Himself publicly, and seasons when He works quietly, personally, and selectively. Just as He withdrew from the crowds to focus on those He called “friends” (John 15:15), He may also draw aside in our time—not to hide, but to go deeper with those who are truly seeking Him.

Jesus said,

> “Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs” *(Matthew 7:6).*

This teaches us that some spiritual truths are reserved for those willing to receive and value them.

The disciples, unlike the crowds, were being prepared for what was to come the suffering, death, and resurrection of Christ,

which form the core of the Gospel (1 Corinthians 15:3–4). These were mysteries of the Kingdom (Romans 16:25–26), which required spiritual maturity to understand.

Jesus later told them:

> “There is much more I want to tell you, but you are not able to bear it now. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth.” *(John 16:12–13)*

This shows us that spiritual growth and discipleship are prerequisites for deeper revelation. The crowds came for miracles and bread (John 6:26), but the disciples were entrusted with Kingdom mysteries including end-time revelations.

The Olivet Discourse – Private Teaching to the Disciples

Teachings about the end times were not given to the masses, but only to His close followers:

- *Matthew 24*
- *Mark 13*

- *Luke 21:5–36*

These were spoken privately while on the Mount of Olives (Matthew 24:3), showing again that Jesus imparts sensitive truths only to those in close relationship with Him.

He affirmed this when He said:

> “What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs.” *(Matthew 10:27)*

That is the very reason we now benefit from these teachings—they were once spoken in secret, but have now been made public through the apostles.

Discipleship vs. Spectatorship

Today, many are still chasing after signs and wonders but Jesus is calling us to more. Signs are good (Mark 16:17), but they are not the goal. They should lead us into deeper faith, not distract us from the cost of following Christ.

> “Then Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.’” *(Matthew 16:24)*

To be a disciple is to go beyond casual belief. It is to surrender, to carry our cross, and to submit to His teaching even when it’s hard.

We must not settle for being part of the crowd that follows Jesus only for blessings. If we do, we may miss the moments when He passes by quietly when He is moving and revealing Himself only to those paying attention.

Jesus is still the same today (Hebrews 13:8). Just as He once chose to bypass the crowds and minister to a few, He can still do so now. If we’re not spiritually alert, He may move in our lives, churches, or communities and we might not even notice.

> “But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear.” *(Matthew 13:16)*

Don’t assume Jesus will always show up in obvious ways. He may pass by in quietness, in hidden places, revealing Himself only to those who are watching and waiting (Luke 12:37).

The Urgency of the Hour

We must remember: time is short. All prophetic signs of the end times have been fulfilled (Matthew 24:33). The Rapture could take place at any moment (1 Thessalonians 4:16–17). This is not the time to play with the grace of salvation or to take the things of God lightly.

Jesus is not just an idea, a symbol, or a good teacher. He is “the power of God and the wisdom of God” (1 Corinthians 1:24). When you follow Him fully, your life cannot stay the same.

So What Should We Do?

1. Choose discipleship over casual belief.
2. Separate from worldly distractions and seek intimacy with Jesus.
3. Welcome the Holy Spirit to teach, convict, and guide you.
4. Remain spiritually awake so that when He passes by, you don’t miss Him.

> “Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.” *(Matthew 24:42)*

Let us not miss our moment. Let us become true disciples of Christ—carrying our cross, forsaking the world, and preparing for His return.

Maranatha — Come, Lord Jesus. (Revelation 22:20)

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