

**Title:** Stay Awake! The King is Coming!

**Passage:** Mark 13:28-37

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“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning— lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”

## EXPOSITION

**Context of Passage:**

Mark 13:1-2

And as he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!” And Jesus said to him, “Do you see these great buildings? There will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.”

- this was shocking as they had great pride in the Temple.
- Also, they were familiar how Old Testament prophecies pointed to a Temple with a new kingdom

Ezekiel 37:28

Then the nations will know that I am the LORD who sanctifies Israel, when my sanctuary is in their midst forevermore.”

Amos 9:14-15

I will restore the fortunes of my people Israel, and they shall rebuild the ruined cities and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and drink their wine, and they shall make gardens and eat their fruit. I will plant them on their land, and they shall never again be uprooted out of the land that I have given them,” says the LORD your God.

*Two Questions by Disciples*

- When will the Temple be crushed?
- When what will be previously foresaw in the Old Testament occur?

Matthew 24:3

As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will these things be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?”

*Jesus reply: Mark 13*

Mark 13:5 (no eschatology)

And Jesus began to say to them, “See that no one leads you astray.

Mark 13:14

“But when you see the abomination of desolation standing where he ought not to be (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

Mark 13:37

And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”

*What to Grasp? When*

Key point: God will judge Israel until a remaining remnant who repents, at which point, God will restore the kingdom

- Jeremiah: repent, faithless Israel
- John the Baptist: repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand
- Jesus: repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand
- Jesus commands disciples to preach? Go only to the tribes of Israel and preach repent.
- Acts begins Jesus preaching to Israelites and ends with Paul preaching repent to Israelites

### Overview of Passage

- I. Stay Awake - You do know the season of the King's return (v..28-31)
- II. Stay Awake - You do not know the exact moment of King's return. (v.32-34)
- III. Stay awake - You do know that the King will suddenly come unannounced (v.35-37)

### I. Stay Awake. You do know the season of the Kings' return (v..28-31)

#### Mark 13:28-31

From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

*From the fig tree learn its lesson*

- Command to realize meaning of lesson/parable
- Look at the tree: when it sprouts, you know fruit is coming.
- "The fig tree" = which one? The one Jesus cursed and thereafter withered.

#### Mark 11:13-14

And seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to see if he could find anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. And he said to it, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard it.

#### Mark 11:20-21

As they passed by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered away to its roots. And Peter remembered and said to him, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree that you cursed has withered."

- Why was the fig tree cursed? It looked fruitful but it wasn't. Jesus made visible what it really was (dead)
  - Like the Temple that looked good outside but internally dead.
- Open question: will the fig tree remain withered forever?

*as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near*

- As soon as you see a Temple flourish again in Israel: be alert!

### 2 Thessalonians 2:3

Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,

- Jesus will come and kill a person in the Temple who will emerge in the future.

*So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates.*

- You will see them as they take place, and then know that Jesus' return is imminent.

*Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.*

## “This generation”

- generation who will witness all these end times signs that will take place
  - Birth pains
  - Gospel proclaimed in all nations
  - Abomination and desolation
  - Son of man coming in great power and glory
- Also see Deuteronomy 32; Numbers 1; Psalm 24 (the term “generation” is measured as eras of believing or unbelieving)

### Matthew 11:16-17

“But to what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to their playmates,

### Matthew 12:39

But he answered them, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.

### Matthew 12:41

The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.

### Matthew 12:42

The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something greater than Solomon is here.

### Matthew 17:17

And Jesus answered, “O faithless and twisted generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me.”

### Matthew 23:36

Truly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.

### Matthew 24:34

Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place.

- “This generation” = era of unbelieving Israel that won’t repent but will ultimately do so just before Jesus returns.
- Aspect of this that is good news: Jesus will still preserve Israel through history

*Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.*

- It is a clear certainty that all this will take place.
- Why? Because God Himself has spoken.
- The Return of Christ is more certain than the physical laws of the universe (which earth will pass for a new one).

### 2 Peter 3:10 (truth)

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

### 2 Peter 3:11-13 (application)

Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

See Progression of Jesus’ response in Mark 13

### Mark 13:5

And Jesus began to say to them, “See that no one leads you astray.

### Mark 13:8

For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.

### Mark 13:9a

But be on your guard.

Mark 13:10

And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations.

Mark 13:13

And you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

Mark 13:14a

But when you see the abomination of desolation standing where he ought not to be (let the reader understand)

Mark 13:24

But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light,

Mark 13:26

And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory.

Mark 13:27

And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

- Application: stay awake!

1 Thessalonians 5:1-2

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

*Timing? Festival of Booths*

- Israel had three pilgrimage feasts

1. Passover

- Timing: early spring
- Purpose: Celebrate Israel's escape from Egypt
- Connect: Jesus died at Passover to save us from wrath of God.

2. Pentecost

- Timing: Late spring
- Purpose: Israel would present wave offering for firstfruits/promises of bountiful harvest to come
- Connect: Jesus had ascended and cast out His Spirit and created His church.

3. Feast of Booths/Tabernacles/ Harvest

- Timing: late summer/early fall
- Purpose: Israel would make huts and live for 7 days. Celebrated full harvest at end of summer. Celebrate God's dwelling with Israel.
- Connect: Jesus will return; full banquet / feast to occur; God will dwell with man.

Zechariah 14:16-19

Then everyone who survives of all the nations that have come against Jerusalem shall go up year after year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Booths. And if any of the families of the earth do not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, there will be no rain on them. And if the family of Egypt does not go up and present themselves, then on them there shall be no rain; there shall be the plague with which the LORD afflicts the nations that do not go up to keep the Feast of Booths. This shall be the punishment to Egypt and the punishment to all the nations that do not go up to keep the Feast of Booths.

- Why Feast of Booths?

- Preceded by Rosh Hashanah (trumpet sounding that begins a 10-day period of introspection and repentance that culminates into Yom Kippur)
- Similarity: See Revelation (trumpet will sound, Israel will repent, then Christ will come)

## **II. Stay Awake. You do not know the exact moment of Kings' return. (v.32-33)**

### Mark 13:32-33

But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come.

#### *only the Father*

- God the Father has the authority and knowledge of when Jesus will return again.
- Complete sovereignty is God's alone.

Two commands:

- Be on guard!
  - One word: "Watch"
  - Ongoing verb: continue to be watchful
- Stay awake!
  - One word: "Awake"
  - Ongoing verb: continue to be awake

Why?

- We do not know the hour.

#### *Stay awake!*

- if you are a Christian, you are awake!

### Ephesians 2:5

even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved

- In Christ, you are already looking to Jesus' anticipated return

### Colossians 3:1-2

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

### Hebrews 12:2

looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

### Philippians 3:20-21

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

### 2 Corinthians 3:18

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

### 1 Peter 1:13

Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

- Live constantly prepared thinking "maybe tonight!" or "maybe today!"

### III. Stay awake. You do know that the King will suddenly come unannounced (v.34-37)

#### Mark 13:34-37

It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning— lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”

*It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake*

- Application: Stay awake as you work because the King is coming!
- Stay vigilant and diligent.

#### Romans 6:22

But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.

- We are slaves/servants of the living God. We are to use our time, talent, and treasures for Him!

#### 2 Corinthians 4:18

as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

- The Gospel must be preached to all the nations.
- Everywhere is our mission field. Preach the Gospel in families, in courts, to non-believers

*Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning— lest he come suddenly and find you asleep.*

- Application: Stay awake as you do not know when the King comes!

#### Mark 13:10

And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations.

#### 2 Peter 3:12

waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn!

- what kind of people we ought to be? Look forward to Jesus’ return.

*And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.*

- Application: Stay awake and tell others the truth to be awake.
- “To all” = applies to all.

#### 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.