



Be Alert

Key idea:

Jesus calls believers to be alert as we await His final return, not by looking for supposed signs but rather by maintaining a vibrant relationship with Him and His people.

Key text:

Mark 13:32-37

32 “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Be on guard! Be alert[a]! You do not know when that time will come. 34 It’s like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. 35 “Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. 36 If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. 37 What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’”

Key points:

1. Jesus teaches that no one knows the exact time of His return.
2. We are called to be alert and watchful, not to predict the timing.
3. Staying alert involves prayer, Scripture study, obedience, and church unity.
4. Our hope is in Christ's return and the restoration of all things.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is the contrast between knowing the timing and seeing the signs leading up to the destruction of the Temple (Mark 13:1-31) and Jesus’ words regarding His final return, where we do not know the timing and there are no signs, important to understanding Jesus’ main points in Mark 13:32-37?
2. Why do you think Jesus emphasizes that no one knows the day or hour of His return? How does this impact how we should live?

3. The sermon mentions four ways to stay alert: prayer, Scripture, obedience, and church unity. Which of these areas do you find most challenging, and why?
4. How does our culture try to "lull us to sleep" spiritually? Share examples you've observed or experienced.
5. Discuss the analogy of the lion hunting isolated animals. How have you seen the importance of Christian community in your own life?
6. The pastor mentions that sin "looks attractive in the moment but is distorting to the soul." Can you share an experience that illustrates this truth?
7. How does remembering Christ's first coming (His life, death, and resurrection) help us stay alert for His second coming?

Practical Applications:

1. Choose one area (prayer, Scripture, obedience, or church unity) to focus on improving this week. Share your plan with the group.
2. Set a daily reminder on your phone to pray for Christ's return and to live in light of that hope.
3. Memorize a Bible verse related to Christ's return (e.g., Mark 13:33 or 1 Thessalonians 5:6).
4. Identify one way you can deepen your involvement in the local church this month.
5. Start a journal to record how God is keeping you spiritually "awake" and alert.