



“Are You Awake?”

December 21, 2025

Mark 13:28-37



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Introduction:

As we read the passage, what does the Holy Spirit initially bring to your attention?

Why do think He is highlighting this to you?

The Lesson of the Fig Tree (Mark 13:28-31):

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out 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.”

1. The Signs of the seasons:

- When one season is about to become another, there are signs....
- Similarly, when you see these things take place, know that Jesus is near!
- Some see, in the immediate context, the destruction by Rome as partial fulfillment.
- “*This generation*” most naturally refers to the present generation of people alive, not the whole human race, all Jews, or the church.

The Parable of the Returning Owner (Mark 13:32-37):

“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.”

1. The Day of the Lord

- The timing of Jerusalem, may be known, but not even Jesus knows the day of His return. (See Acts 1:6-8)
- Be on guard; keep awake!

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1. The Day of the Lord

- The timing of Jerusalem, may be known, but not even Jesus knows the day of His return. (See Acts 1:6-8)
- Be on guard; keep awake!

2. He is Coming Back

- Jesus' return will be sudden, no time for last minute preparations.
- Don't be caught sleeping.
- Therefore, STAY AWAKE!

Luke 21:34-36, 1 Thessalonians 5:5-8, 1 Peter 4:7

The Dangers of Sleeping Spiritually:

1. Led Astray (v5, v22) - There will be an increase of false teachers/false prophets
- Social media has created an atmosphere where this is already happening

2. Consumed by the cares of this world (Luke 21:34-36)

3. We might experience fear and shame at his coming (1 John 2:28) - Abide in Jesus now that we rejoice with great joy at his coming!

What does it look like to "Be Awake"?

1. Prayer is a vital part of your day:

- Growing desire to be talking with God
- Both set time; and as you go about your day

1 Peter 4:7; Matthew 26:41

2. Desires/Burdens

- Increasingly moved by the things that move God
- Burden for people who are still separated from God
- Desiring to hear from and be used by God for the kingdom

Luke 19:41-44, Matthew 23:37-39, Phil. 3:10

Reflection/Prayer:

1. How has God been speaking to you through this Advent season?

2. How would you answer the question: "Are you awake?"

3. How did the Holy Spirit speak to your heart through the artwork depicting Simeon's reaction to Jesus?

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