

Mark 13:28-37 — “Be On The Alert! Jesus’ Coming Is Near!”

“Christ the Master, is coming soon. Opportunity slips away with each passing minute. When he returns, it will be too late to recover lost opportunity. His judgment will occur immediately, and it will result in the final, irreversible disposition of all souls alive at His appearing -both faithful and unfaithful. Now is our only time to prepare. Today is the only opportunity we are guaranteed. All the resources we have belong to our Lord. Our opportunities for sharing the Gospel, our spiritual opportunities, and all temporal blessings come from His gracious hand. If these resources were ours, we could do them as we please. But they are his, committed to us as His stewards, and we will give account at His coming for how we have used them.” (MacArthur)

Passion Week overview:

- Mark 13 occurs on Tues Night; on the Mt of Olives.
- The setting (vv1-2)
- The questions (vv3-4)
- The Tribulation (*future, 7-year, worldwide judgment*)
 - The BEGINNING of the Tribulation (vv5-13)
 - The MIDDLE of the Tribulation (vv14-23)
 - The END of the Tribulation (vv24-27)
 - ➔ **The applications of the Tribulation (vv28-37)** [*prophecy is practical*]

THESIS — In our text, Jesus provides TWO significant lessons that we hear from these words from our Lord.

(1) Your Savior is Coming! (2) You must be Alert!

I. YOUR SAVIOR IS COMING! (28-32)

A. His coming is **NEAR** (28, 29) = *undelayed*

B. His coming is **CERTAIN** (30-31)= *unfailing*

v.30 - “This generation” refers to the generation that is alive at the end. Once the beginning of the end times signs occur, the Son of Man will return before *that generation* passes away. Simply, the end will occur within one generation (Darrel Bock).

v.31 -

1. **Inspiration** = MY WORDS (come from God himself)
2. **Impossibility** = WILL never / shall never
3. **Indestructibility** = shall not PASS AWAY

C. His coming (timing) is **UNKNOWN** (32) = *unknown*

II. YOU MUST BE ALERT! (33-37)

v.35 - the 4 night "watches" of Roman time

the 4 watches:

1. evening = 6-9PM
2. Midnight = 9PM-12AM
3. Rooster crowing (12-3AM)
4. morning/ Dawn (3-6AM)

Simple Questions in Response:

1. Are you forgiven of your sins?
2. Are you serving in your church?
3. Are you faithful to your Lord?
4. Are you studying your Bible?

SOME IMPLICATIONS (how this affects you):

1. Be **aware** of world events but not **anxiously consumed** with them.

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2. All things will pass away, –but invest deeply, attentively and daily into Christ's Words.
3. Remember no one knows the exact time of Christ's 2nd coming
4. Faithfully do your God-given task, as Christ's slave, in His absence.
5. Christ's return is promised, near, triumphant and motivational.

Hymn by Charles Wesley on "WATCHFULNESS" [*Tune: "Crown Him with Many Crowns"*]

1 Gracious Redeemer, shake This slumber from my soul!
Say to me now, "Awake, awake! And Christ shall make thee whole!"

2 Touch with thy mighty hand; Alarm me in this hour;
And make me fully understand My danger and thy power.

3 Give me on thee to call, Always to watch and pray,
Lest I into temptation fall, And cast my shield away.

4 For each assault prepared And ready may I be;
Forever standing on my guard, And looking up to thee.

5 O do thou always warn My soul of evil near;
When to the right or left I turn, Thy voice still let me hear:

6 "Come back! this is the way; Come back and walk therein;"
O may I hearken and obey, And shun the paths of sin.

Are you ready for the second coming of Christ? He will come again to this world one day. As surely as He came the first time, so surely will He come the second time. He will come to reward all His saints who have believed in Him and confessed Him on earth. He will come; to judge all His enemies, the careless, the ungodly, the impenitent, and the unbelieving. He will come very suddenly, at an hour when no man thinks, as a thief in the night. He will come in terrible majesty, in the glory of His, Father, with the holy angels. A flaming fire shall burn before Him. The dead shall be raised. The judgment shall be set. The books shall be opened. Some shall be exalted into heaven. Many, very many, shall be cast down to hell. The time for repentance shall be past. Many shall cry, "Lord, Lord, open to us," but find the door of mercy shut forever. After this there will be no change. Reader, if Christ should come the second time this year, are you ready? Oh! reader, these are solemn questions. They ought to make you examine yourself. They ought to make you think. It would be a terrible thing to be taken by surprise. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. (JC Ryle)

CROWN HIM WITH MANY CROWNS

Crown Him with many crowns,
 The Lamb upon His throne.
 Hark! How the heav'nly anthem drowns
 All music but its own!
 Awake, my soul, and sing
 Of Him who died for thee;
 And hail Him as thy matchless king
 Through all eternity!

Crown Him the Lord of love!
 Behold His hands and side,
 Those wounds, yet visible above,
 In beauty glorified:
 No angel in the sky
 Can fully bear that sight,
 But downward bends his burning eye
 At mysteries so bright!

Crown Him the Lord of life,
 Who triumphed o'er the grave,
 And rose victorious in the strife
 For those He came to save.
 His glories now we sing,
 Who died, and rose on high,
 Who died eternal life to bring,
 And lives that death may die.

Crown Him the Lord of Heav'n,
 Enthroned in worlds above,
 Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n
 The wondrous name of Love.
 Crown Him with many crowns,
 As thrones before Him fall;
 Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns,
 For He is king of all.

FACING A TASK UNFINISHED

Facing a task unfinished
 That drives us to our knees
 A need that, undiminished
 Rebukes our slothful ease
 We, who rejoice to know Thee
 Renew before Thy throne
 The solemn pledge we owe Thee
 To go and make Thee known

Where other lords beside Thee
 Hold their unhindered sway
 Where forces that defied Thee
 Defy Thee still today
 With none to heed their crying
 For life, and love, and light
 Unnumbered souls are dying
 And pass into the night

**We go to all the world
 With kingdom hope unfurled**

**No other name has power to save
 But Jesus Christ The Lord**

We bear the torch that flaming
 Fell from the hands of those
 Who gave their lives proclaiming
 That Jesus died and rose
 Ours is the same commission
 The same glad message ours
 Fired by the same ambition
 To Thee we yield our powers

O Father who sustained them
 O Spirit who inspired
 Savior, whose love constrained them
 To toil with zeal untired
 From cowardice defend us
 From lethargy awake!
 Forth on Thine errands send us
 To labor for Thy sake