

**The Journey to Eternity**  
**Week 9 | March 16, 2014**

**Are You Sleeping?**  
**Mark 13:32-37**



In Mark 13, Jesus gives His disciples the signs of what will happen just before He returns. In our passage this week, He ends the teaching with both strong warning and encouragement. Jesus is coming back! What does he want us to be doing until then?

**Read Mark 13:32-37.**

**ESCHATOLOGY**

The word *eschatology* means “*last things*” and refers to what Christians believe about the end times.

**Discuss:**

[Q] If you knew exactly when Jesus was coming back, what would you do differently?

In Acts 1:7 Jesus said, “*It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.*” [Q] Why do you think the Father has kept the time secret?

**Compare the following passages with today’s Mark passage.**

**Read: Matthew 25:1-13. The Parable of the Ten Virgins**

[Q] How does the parable add to the encouragement to prepare for Jesus’ coming?

**Read Luke 21:34-36.**

*“Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. <sup>35</sup> For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup> Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.” (NIV)*

[Q] How does the hope of Jesus’ coming help you to endure difficult times?

**Apply**

[Q] What does it mean for you to be watchful in anticipation of Jesus’ return? How does this affect your daily life?

[Q] In what areas of your life are you awake and “on the job” spiritually?

[Q] Who do you need to encourage to “wake up!” How will you encourage them?

[Q] In what areas are you snoozing spiritually?

[Q] What do you think you should do differently?

**Pray**

In light of Jesus’ imminent return, how should we pray for others? Other Christians? Unbelievers? Nations?

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**Give and Go**

[Q] In light of Jesus’ imminent return, how should we prioritize our financial giving to spreading the Gospel?

[Q] What opportunities do you have to GO? Where can you GO? Across the hall, street, state, world?

**For further study:**

When Christ returns people will be either sleeping or watching. These two verbs summarize the two attitudes to Christ’s return described elsewhere in the New Testament. Make a list of the characteristics you find in the following passages:

Rom. 13:11-14  
1 Cor. 15:50-58  
2 Cor. 5:1-22  
Phil. 3:20- 4:1  
Col. 3:4-11, 23-24

1 Thess. 5:1-11  
1 Peter 1:3-9  
2 Peter 3:11-15  
1 John 3:1-3