



Stay Awake

Sept 11

INTRODUCTION: Mark is a simple story until this seemingly complex chapter. However, Jesus tells us of the present and future so we might serve Him in readiness. This final passage warns against speculation with the call, awake!

REVIEW: [Mark](#) (be cautious with other videos)

KEY POINT: imminent return, timing, readiness

A.M. SERMON RECAP (Mk 13:1–13, Signs)

- What helps us to interpret this chapter?
- What four things does Jesus warn us of?
- Vs. speculation, how is this chapter about readiness?
- What hope do the elect have to persevere through crises?

P.M. SERMON RECAP (Mk 13:14–27, Judgement)

- How did Christians know to flee Jerusalem c. AD 70?
- How is the destruction of Jerusalem picture proof of a greater judgement to come?
- What two signs will indicate Christ's return? Why won't believer's need to fear His coming?

READ: Mark 13:28–37

QUESTIONS:

1. *Jesus has warned about the trials of this life, about the destruction of Jerusalem and His return. Now He warns us to stay awake!*
2. **Can you share a time when you were sleeping/dozing/not paying attention when something surprised you? (or when alertness spared you).**

Fig Tree

3. *V. 28a- Jesus wants us to learn a simple yet important lesson.*
4. *V. 28b- In Ch. 11 the fig tree referred to Israel but here is merely a rural example. Many tree species were coniferous. The fig tree was one that was deciduous in winter. What is the base lesson?*
5. **Do we have any rural sayings about seasons?**

6. **V. 29- how is this lesson applied to Jesus' return?** *"These things" refer to cosmic signs and clouds of glory (above). "Gates" see image below.*
7. *The disciples now trust Jesus' words, and this is bolstered by the prophecy of Jerusalem coming true in AD 70. Indeed, in v. 31 Jesus says His words are utterly trustworthy, right to the very end, a certain rock for faith in all of these troubles. Do we trust or worry?*
8. *"This generation" has confused many, is it the disciples, some other group, believer's alive at Christ's return? Given the immediate context, what is most likely?*
9. **V. 31- If heaven and earth will pass away (c.f. Job 1:21 "naked I came"), how should this effect how I live today? How will this help us be ready?**

No one knows

10. *V. 32 and 33b- what can be trusted is that it will happen. We must rest in this vs. speculate over the timings or the precise details.*
How does this bring us peace?
 11. *While Jesus is God, the Father wills within the Trinity and as such the Son doesn't know, nor the angels (and certainly not us!).*
Rather than speculate, what are we to do? (v. 33a, 9 and 23).
 12. *Jesus then tells a parable/allegory (c.f. parable of the tenants, i.e. an absentee landlord returning). Share this scenario in your own words.*
 13. *The story is bookended by 2x "you don't know" for emphasis.*
 14. *Servants are probably Christians and the doorkeeper leaders.*
What is each parties "work"? (c.f. Mk 13:10, 13b). How must we be awake to do this? As we wait we work.
 15. *How is v. 32 and 33 repeated again in v. 35–36? Do you sense Jesus is making a point?*
 16. **Can you share a time when you received a surprised visit/inspection?**
 17. **How do non-Christians (and Christians!) live as if Jesus' return is not imminent?**
 18. **How does the knowledge of Jesus' return affect you?**
- NEXT WEEK:** Sept 18- Joseph's Dreams, Genesis 37:1–11