

Bible Study Questions

He Will Come Again– Mark 13:28-37

Focus

Jesus will return. We don't know when and therefore we must always be awake and ready for His return.

Read

[Mark 13:28-37](#)

Listen

CCNYC teaching on Mark 13 which can be found on our [website](#)

As you study this passage on your own or with a small group of others, here are some questions for study, reflection, and application.

Some Questions for Study and Reflection

1. Remind each other of some of the matters that were covered in the initial overview of this entire chapter from three weeks ago:
 - What is the setting?
 - What do the questions of verse 4 reveal about what the disciples understand Jesus to mean by the destruction of the temple?
 - In what way is Jesus trying to help them not conflate the final judgment of God at the end of the world with the destruction of the temple?
 - In what way does biblical prophecy often have both near and far fulfillments? How does that relate to this chapter?
 - In what way is the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple a 'preview of coming attractions' – i.e., of the final judgment of God at the end of the world?
2. What in the passage helps us to understand that verses 28-31 are about the events leading up to and including the destruction of the temple in 70 AD, and that verses 32-37 are about the return of Jesus at the end of history? (Remember the difference between 'these things' and 'those days/that day'.)
3. Who does Jesus say does and does not know the timing of His return in verse 32?
4. Where else might you look in Scripture to help explain why it is that the Son doesn't know the timing of His own return?

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5. What instruction does Jesus give His disciples about how they should live as a result of not knowing exactly when He'll return?
6. How does the illustration that Jesus uses beginning at verse 34 help to more fully explain what we should be doing before He returns?

Closing Reflection and Application

7. What are some of the implications of verse 31?
8. Though Jesus is repeatedly explicit here about the fact that we don't know when He'll return, it hasn't kept Christians from making guesses and sometimes even explicit predictions about when. Why do you think people sometimes do that?
9. Sunday's sermon described three aspects of staying spiritually awake. Discuss each of the three below and think through how to apply them to our lives. Try to be as specific as you can.
 - I. Live wisely
 - II. Live working
 - III. Live waiting
10. In what ways can unbelief creep in and undermine how attentive we are in waiting and watching for Jesus to return?
11. How should waiting and watching for Jesus (staying spiritually awake) shape, for example, how we parent our children; how we think about and endure suffering; how we understand our jobs; our marriages; our relationships in the church; and even our vacations?
12. What are some practical things each of us can do right now to help each other stay awake?