

Be on the Alert Mark 13:28-37

Recognize Mark 13:28-30

Mark 13:29 – *“Even so, you too, when you see these things happening, recognize that He (it) is near, right at the door.”*

- This relates to the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple and confirms that it will be preceded by signs to be recognized and will occur within the generation of the disciples.

Don't go too far Mark 13:31-32

Mark 13:32 – *“But of that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.”*

- “That day” often refers to the judgment day and the return of Christ. The focus now shifts to the uncertain time of the return of the Son of Man and the end of the age.
 - Joel 3:18; Amos 8:3-13; 9:11; Obadiah 1:8; Micah 4:6; Zephaniah 1:9-10; 3:11-16; Zechariah 9:16; Matthew 7:22; Luke 10:12; 1 Corinthians 3:13; 2 Timothy 2:12-18; 4:8.
- The Old Testament speaks of the temporal nature of this earth with the eternal nature of God and His Word. The Words of Christ here are the very words of God.
 - Psalm 102:25-27
 - Isaiah 40:6-8; 51:6
- Acts 1:7-8 - *“It is not for you to know the times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you shall be my witnesses...”*
 - Our focus should not be on determining the time of Christ's return.
 - Our focus should be on testifying of Jesus to the ends of the earth.

Be on the alert Mark 13:33-37

Mark 13:37 – *“What I say to you I say to all, ‘Be on the alert!’”*

- This is repeated at least four times in the passage. Repetition equals emphasis.
- What does an alert life look like?
 - 2 Peter 3:11-15; 1 Thessalonians 5:5-8; 1 Corinthians 16:13-14; Acts 1:7-8
 - What are our indicators?
- Being alert is a conscious act. This doesn't just happen. It must be intentional.

Response: Pray through these “Prayers of Intention” multiple times per day as ways to help you develop ongoing intimacy with God and to help you “Be on the alert!” to protect the heart from moralism, under-effort, and the flesh. Use these to be open to the filling of the Spirit in all things and no longer be alone.

1. **Prayer of Presenting Oneself as a Sacrifice** (Rom 12:1-2): The spiritual discipline of presenting oneself to God as a living sacrifice, open to Him and His will in all things, for the sake of transformation. *“Lord, I am here, I present myself to you, that I might not be conformed to the world but transformed by the renewing of the mind of Christ within me. Here I am.”*
2. **Prayer of Recollection** (Phil 3:7-9; Gal 2:20): The spiritual discipline of reminding the self of its true identity in Christ (full pardon, full acceptance) and “Christ in me” (that I am not alone). *“God, whatever I do today, I want to do this in you. I have died with Christ to the law and sin. It is no longer I who lives but Christ is now my life and He lives in me. I am fully forgiven and accepted in Christ. I don't want to do this day alone, in my own power or as a way to hide and cover. I don't want to find my identity in anything but Christ. I am in Christ.”* Confess any idolatry: something besides Jesus Christ that you feel you must have to be happy, something that is more important to your heart than God, something that is enslaving your heart through inordinate desires.

3. **Prayer of Honesty** (Ps 15:1-2; 139:23-24): The spiritual discipline whereby we open to God and ourselves in what is truly going on in our heart in order for truth-telling to take place in our relationships and life. *"Lord, what is going on in my heart right now with You, with others, with my life, my situations? Search me, O God, and know my heart. Open my heart to you today in truth, lest I deceive myself."* Spend time in confession (1 John 1:8-10)
4. **Prayer of Discernment** (Eccles 7:13-14): The discipline whereby we learn to watch what the Spirit is doing in us and not merely our work, to consider the work of God, what His will is in all things versus ours or the devil's. *"Lord, what are you doing and what is it that you want me to become and do if I am to do your will?"*
5. **In receptivity to the Spirit, hear the Word of God** (Heb 4:12)
Spend some time reading the Bible and listening to God speak to you through it.

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Digging Deeper + LifeGroup Discussion:

1. Have you found an over-emphasis on determining the date of the end-times within yourself or within people with whom you interact?
2. What do you do to be on the alert? Are there steps you take to help you live a pure and holy life? Are there steps you take to be alert for Christ's return?
3. How should we adjust our daily routines if, according to Acts 1:7-8, our focus should be on being Spirit-empowered witnesses rather than guessing the times and epochs?

Next Step:

WEDNESDAY PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY: Want to learn more about what the Bible says about end times? Join us for an in-depth Bible study of prophecy in Revelation with Pastor David Mitchell, featuring traditional worship each Wednesday Night at 7:00 pm in Samsvick Chapel. calvarylife.org/wednesday

In Response:

COMMUNION: Communion is a "meal" for believers in Jesus Christ to help us give thanks and remember His death on the cross for the forgiveness of sins. The matzah bread represents the body of Christ given for us. The cup of juice represents the blood of Christ that was shed to pay the price for our sins. We are called to examine ourselves before taking communion (Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-34). We typically pass communion elements the first Sunday of the month. Most other weeks, communion is available at tables around the room after the sermon.

GIVING: The offering is received during each Sunday service. This is a way to express a wholehearted trust in God and worship Him through giving. It is also an act of obedience to God that helps free us from money having mastery over us. Tithing is a biblical command of 10% as a baseline of giving, but the New Testament calls us as followers of Jesus to give even more. Our prayer is that you plan ahead to give purposefully and joyfully to God, helping to further ministry locally and globally in Jesus' name. Discover ways to give on the front of the bulletin or calvarylife.org/give

PRAYER POINTS: These locations at the front right and left of the Worship Center will have people available to pray with you during the time of singing after the sermon and after the service as well. These people are excited to pray with you about anything in your life, including praying to tell Jesus that you believe in Him as God and trust Him for salvation. They will also pray for any health needs, stresses, worries, family members, temptations or anything else.

PRAYER ROOM: The Prayer Room is located at the front right of the Worship Center Auditorium through the doorway behind the Prayer Point. This is a quiet space that you can go to at anytime during the service to be able to pray and reflect on what God is doing in your heart.