

Advent – 1

Mark 13:24-37

24 “But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, **25** and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. **26** And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory.¹ **27** And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. **28** From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. **29** So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. **30** Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. **31** Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. **32** But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. **33 Be on guard, keep awake.** For you do not know when the time will come. **34** It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. **35 Therefore stay awake**—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning— **36** lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. **37** And what I say to you I say to all: **Stay awake.**”

The return of Jesus is _____ and _____.

But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. -2 Peter 3:8-9

(The commands to “stay awake” and “be watchful” appear frequently in the Bible.²)

Jesus teaches us very clearly – “Place your ultimate _____ in the fact that I am _____ . Then, organize your entire life around that one central _____.”

¹ Clouds symbolize God’s glory and presence. See Acts 1:9; Exodus 13:21; Psalm 104:3; Isaiah 19:1

² stay awake, be watchful: Luke 21:34-36; Colossians 4:2; 1 Peter 5:8; Revelation 3:2-3; 1 Thessalonians 5:2-6