



SEE IT

Mark 13:34 "The coming of the Son of Man can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. When he left home, he gave each of his slaves instructions about the work they were to do, and he told the gatekeeper to watch for his return. ³⁵You, too, must keep watch! For you don't know when the master of the household will return—in the evening, at midnight, before dawn, or at daybreak. ³⁶Don't let him find you sleeping when he arrives without warning. ³⁷I say to you what I say to everyone: Watch for him!"

OBEY IT

Jesus is coming back. That phrase causes fear in some, happiness in others and a yawn in others. Today's text encourages us to do three things:

- 1. Stay occupied.** Some people in our churches dedicate their attention to last day conspiracies. Jesus says, "stay busy". It's not your job to figure when it will happen, but to understand that it will happen. .
- 2. Stay alert.** It can happen anytime. If you noticed the text says that he will come at night, which is a time otherwise reserved for sleeping (evening, midnight, before dawn). The temptation is to relax. Don't. Instead, occupy, until he comes. Watch and pray.
- 3. Stay expectant.** It can happen this year. It can happen in 10 years. The expectation keeps our hope alive and that hope provides strength in the middle of the trials.

My dad traveled sometimes. When he would come home to our home in Cayey, PR, I remember one time he brought me a watch from his trip. It came in a little box, and I was so thankful and happy when I received it. I can just think of the day when my heavenly father returns. Not with a box, but with my salvation in his hands.

SHARE IT

1. Send a friend an old photo and recall old times.
2. Send a random person in the phone book a small gift.
3. Send your sibling or family member or co-worker a small gift anonymously.

My Prayer Today:

Lord, I look forward to your coming. Not with fear or a yawn but with expectation and hope. Help me stay busy helping others in the meanwhile. Amen.

My Thoughts _____



SEE IT

Mark 14:64 "Guilty!" they all cried. "He deserves to die!" ⁶⁵Then some of them began to spit at him, and they blindfolded him and beat him with their fists. "Prophecy to us," they jeered. And the guards slapped him as they took him away.

OBEY IT

The gospel of Mark is pretty graphic when talking about Jesus' last days. He talks about the pain and suffering Jesus was put through. It's easy to look at what Jesus went through and shake our heads with disgust. How could they? Why would they? But the truth is: I did this. I spit on Jesus. I beat him up. I nailed him, hit him, and killed him. That is the truth of the gospel. Jesus went willingly to a death caused by my lying, evil desires, pride, sin. He took my punishment, I took his glory. And there is NOTHING I could ever do to repay him. Therefore we need to ask ourselves the following three questions:

- 1. Why would he?** One word: love. Love for us kept him from coming down from the cross. Is it possible that in the midst of all out theological education, religious knowledge and prophetic understanding we sometimes neglect the reason for our salvation, i/e the cross? Without it, everything else becomes either harder or complicated.
- 2. How could we?** I don't believe it's possible to look at his sacrifice and be unwilling to sacrifice ourselves. When we don't, we won't. Take a bit of time today to reflect on the cross. Let that be your motivation for service. He died for us. That's why we sing. That's why we worship. That's why we serve.
- 3. When will we?** Now that we understand what it means to be saved by grace, through faith, plus nothing, period, we need to act on it. It would be hypocritical to expect grace from God and extend law to others. Let's act with love.

SHARE IT

1. Spend time with the elderly.
2. Share your secret recipe with a friend.
3. Write a letter of appreciation.

My Prayer Today:

Jesus, today I just want to thank you. Don't want to ask for anything, just want to say thank you.

My Thoughts _____