



STAY WOKE!

Mark 13:24-36


(Matthew 25:36-51)

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BACKDROP

- Jesus begins chapter 13 discussing signs and the end of the age with Peter, John, James and Andrew.
- He then focuses intently on His return.
- For centuries man has tried to predict the Lord's return.
 - Marine Corps – Bible Prophecy Group
 - ECU's Campus Christians
- Such prognostications have led people to sell all material possessions and hang out on rooftops clothed in white, awaiting the “rapture”

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- Not surprisingly, all such prophecies have ended unfulfilled and in disappointment
 - Informs us that no one knows the hour of His return, not even the heavenly host, which includes the angels and the Lord himself
 - The Lord tells us to “watch and pray” and ends today’s lesson text counseling us to “**Watch!**”
 - Simply put – “**STAY WOKE**”


PROVERBIAL WRITER WARNS ABOUT SLEEPING

- *Do not love sleep, lest you come to poverty; open your eyes and you shall be satisfied with bread.*

Proverbs 20:13

- *A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest; so shall your poverty come like a prowler, and your need like an armed man.*


Proverbs 24:33-34



“STAYING WOKE” GOES BEYOND PHYSICAL EYES BEING OPEN

Many walk around everyday “asleep” – their minds are not engaged and they are not fully aware of what’s going on around them


- This is dangerous because the devil (our enemy) is always on his game – seeking to ensnare those who are not on guard**




*Be sober, be vigilant; because your
adversary the devil walks around like a
roaring lion, seeking who he may
devour. **1 Peter 5:8***

QUALIFYING GIDEON'S ARMY

But the Lord said to Gideon, "The people are still too many; bring them down to the water and I will test them for you there. Then it will be, that of whom I say to you, 'This one shall go with you,' the same shall go with you; and of whomever I say to you, 'This one shall not go with you,' the same shall not go." ... And the Lord said to Gideon, "Everyone who laps from the water with his tongue, as a dog laps, you shall set apart by himself; likewise everyone who gets down on his knees to drink."




And the number of those who lapped, putting their hands to their mouth, was 300 men; but all the rest got down on their knees to drink water. Then the Lord said to Gideon, “by the 300 men who lapped I will save you and deliver the Midianites into your hand ...” **Judges 7:4-7**

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- You can't remain on guard with your head and eyes down.
 - You can't see or really hear what's going on around you.
 - At the very least, your reaction time is much slower.

I. Must be “Woke” to Avoid Disaster


It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch. Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming – in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning – lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping.

Mark 13:34-36


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- When you least expect it, you can expect it.
 - It's the proverbial "thief in the night" scenario – no one knows when the thief will show up.
 - Well, the thief does not expect his target to be ready!
 - Unfortunately, the thief gets his way because the target is not woke.

THE OLD SCHOOL “POP QUIZ”

- Students enter class.
- Bell rings.
- Teacher calls roll.
- Teacher instructs students to clear their desks of everything but a pencil and paper.
- Teacher directs students attention to screen in front of class, hands out quiz, or begins to ask questions.




**OUTCOME IS DISASTROUS,
EMBARRASING OR
OTHERWISE NOT GOOD
FOR THOSE NOT
PREPARED!**

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- *For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night.*

I Thessalonians 5:2

- **BUT NOTE THE CONTRAST
& HOPE**



*But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore **let us not sleep**, as others do ...*

I Thessalonians 5:4-7


II. Reverts to a Test of Faith

It's been 2,000 years; this really is not going to happen!

*But let us who are of the day be sober putting on the breastplate of **faith** and love. . .*

I Thessalonians 5:8

Many times opportunity (our time to shine has arrived and the stage is ours) shows up at the oddest times.

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- Athlete clients sometimes face this!
 - Months can go by without an opportunity arising.
 - The player's faith is what compels him to continue to maintain good, strong physical condition and a healthy attitude.
 - ...*Substance of things hoped for; the evidence of things not seen.* **Hebrews 11:1**
 - Suddenly, a team is hit with an opportunistic injury – one man's decline just may be another's path to success.


III. Be Careful not to Procrastinate

The biggest mistake we make sometimes is thinking we have enough time, so we can disregard or not make good use of our current time (opportunity) to get ready.

Consequently, we'll put things off, wait and don't prioritize properly

Childhood Example

- Parents used to tell us to clean the house as soon after we finish breakfast
- They usually returned home at 3:00, so our thinking was: “We have all day!” and “With five of us pitching in, man this is a 30 minute job max.”
- We can even do lunch or play a little baseball or football and still get our work done in time


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- But sometimes one of them returned home before 3:00 p.m., and things were not like they were supposed to be.
 - Lot of weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth ensued.

FINAL EXHORTATION

- Do not fall asleep at the wheel.
- Remain alert, vigilant and watchful!

See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Ephesians 5:15-16



*But of that day and hour no one knows,
not even the angels in heaven, nor the
Son, but only the Father. **Mark 13:32***

SO, STAY WOKE!

Lord's Invitation Extended to All

- **Be added to the Lord's body --**
Hear the gospel (Acts 15:7; Romans 10:17)
Believe (Hebrews 11:6, Acts 15:7)
Repent (Acts 2:38)
Confess (Acts 8:36; Romans 10:10)
Be baptized for the remission of sin (Acts 2:38) or

Lord's Invitation (cont'd)

- Be reconciled unto the Lord (**1 John 1:8-9**); or
- Desire prayer. (**James 5:16**).



***May GOD richly bless
you!***