

# 10

MARK 13:24-37

## HE'S COMING BACK

### THIS WEEK'S **focus**

Good things can be hard to wait for, especially when you don't know when they will happen. Likewise, hard things can be difficult to endure when you don't know how long they will last. Both situations can be tough, but they're easier to get through when you know what you're supposed to be doing while you wait. In today's story, Jesus will tell His disciples some of what the future holds, but it won't all be good news. His encouragement to them is His encouragement to us: things are going to get worse before they get better, but it's going to be okay in the end. He's coming back! Watch for Him.



### CENTRAL **truth**

Jesus will return one day.



EXPLORE

# scripture

MARK 13:24-37

## MARK 13:24-27

**24** “But in those days, after that tribulation: The sun will be darkened, and the moon will not shed its light; **25** the stars will be falling from the sky, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. **26** Then they will

see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. **27** 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.

## MARK 13:28-31

**28** “Learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its branch becomes tender and sprouts leaves, you know that summer is near. **29** In the same way, when you see these things happening, recognize

that he is near — at the door. **30** Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things take place. **31** Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

## MARK 13:32-37

**32** “Now concerning that day or hour no one knows — neither the angels in heaven nor the Son — but only the Father. **33** Watch! Be alert! For you don’t know when the time is coming. **34** It is like a man on a journey, who left his house, gave authority to his servants, gave each one his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to

be alert. **35** Therefore be alert, since you don’t know when the master of the house is coming — whether in the evening or at midnight or at the crowing of the rooster or early in the morning. **36** Otherwise, when he comes suddenly he might find you sleeping. **37** And what I say to you, I say to everyone: Be alert!”

# DAILY devotions

## MEMORIZE MARK 13:31

### 7 ARROWS FOR BIBLE READING



What does this passage say?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



What does this passage tell us about humans?



How does this passage prompt me to pray?



What does this passage demand of me?

day 1

# MARK 13:24-27

## DWELL

It's nice to be part of the club, to know you belong to something bigger and more important than yourself. When Jesus comes back, that feeling of belonging will be magnified to an unimaginable degree when His angels come to fetch us to His side. When we reach Him, we'll see things from a perspective we've only ever imagined before, and we'll have the overwhelming peace and joy that comes with knowing everything will really and truly be okay from that point on.

↑ What do these verses teach you about Jesus's nature as the Son of God? How is that different from how the disciples experienced Him before His resurrection?

↻ How do these verses give you hope for the future? How could you pray with these verses in mind?

## MEMORIZE

Write Mark 13:31 on a few sticky notes, and put the notes in places you will see them throughout the day. When you see one, stop and read it out loud.

## PRAY

• Thank God for the hope you have in Jesus and for this miraculous event you have to look forward to. Ask Him to give faith to the people around you who don't know Him so they can experience it with you.

day 2

# MARK 13:28-31

## DWELL

When you're watching and waiting for something as miraculous as Jesus's return with a bunch of people who have been longing for it, the likelihood is pretty high that someone will misread the signs they've been told to watch for. Because so many of the signs Jesus predicted are commonplace now, it's a good idea to give things time to develop before we claim we know what's happening. Instead of being disappointed when events don't lead to Jesus's immediate return, we should be thankful for the reminder to stay busy while we watch.

→ We are closer now to Jesus coming back than we have ever been. How should this affect the way you live?

↪ How should the fact that Jesus is more permanent than the heavens or the earth influence the way you interact with Him?

## MEMORIZE

Write down Mark 13:31 in a journal or on a note card, and circle any words that feel important. Look at just those words for a few moments, then close your eyes and say them. When you can get them all right without looking, try doing the same thing with the whole verse.

## PRAY

Thank God for giving you things to look for while you wait for Jesus to return. Thank Him you don't have to wait alone.

day 3

# MARK 13:32-37

## DWELL

If God didn't expect us to be doing something while we wait, it wouldn't matter when Jesus was coming back. After all, the angels are going to come get us when it's time to go. Jesus told us to watch because He knows what we are like—we get easily distracted from the things we're supposed to be doing. Of course, it's easy to get sidetracked when the wait drags on, but imagining how we will feel when we see Him is a good motivator to stay focused and busy.

↑ Why is it appropriate that God is the only One who knows when Jesus is coming back?

↓ What kinds of things do spiritually awake people do? What kinds of things do spiritually asleep people do?

## MEMORIZE

See how much of Mark 13:31 you can remember by writing it down without looking. Check your work. Add or change as necessary and study it. Practice doing this throughout the week until you get it!

## PRAY

Tell God how excited you are about Jesus's promised return. Tell Him how you want to feel when you see Him. Thank Him for the warning to stay alert.

day 4

# MARK 13:13

## DWELL

Jesus explained to the disciples that they would be persecuted. Things would get so bad, they would be tempted to turn away from Jesus. Their resilience wouldn't save them; instead, it would reveal they had been saved. Those of us who have put our faith in Jesus really have no reason to worry we'll turn away. When pressed, we won't be able to. People who know Jesus are loyal to Him (see John 8:31).

← How do you think the disciples felt at this moment? How would you have felt?

↔ How can we encourage fellow believers when they are struggling to hold on to faith in an unbelieving world?

## MEMORIZE

Try singing Mark 13:31 to the tune of a song you know well. Practice singing the verse to yourself as best as you can throughout the week.

## PRAY

Thank God that He gives us the strength to withstand persecution or mocking and remain loyal to Him. Thank Him for the privilege of being associated with Him.

day 5

# LUKE 12:35-40

## DWELL

This parable is similar to the one Jesus shared in this week's lesson, but it paints a more vivid picture of Jesus's return. It evokes the kind of feeling we want to experience in real life and we should let it motivate us to follow Jesus's instructions while we wait for His return. Imagine knowing that your watchful waiting is over and Jesus is so proud of you that He asks you to recline at His table while He waits on you. What a joy and relief that would be!

→ How can we be ready for Jesus's return if we don't know when He's coming?

↻ What do you think it means to have your lamps lit? How can you do this?

## MEMORIZE

Try reciting Mark 13:31 from memory. Ask a friend or family member to help you by reminding you of any words you've forgotten.

## PRAY

Thank God for this happy image to hang onto while you wait to be reunited with Jesus. Ask Him to guide you as you try to keep your lamp lit and stay watchful.