

TITLE AND NUMBER: 161: Stay alert



REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S): Mark 13:33-37

Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. It's like a man going away: he leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch.

'Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back – whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: "Watch!"'

LOOKING FURTHER: Ephesians 6: 10-20; Matthew 25: 31-46

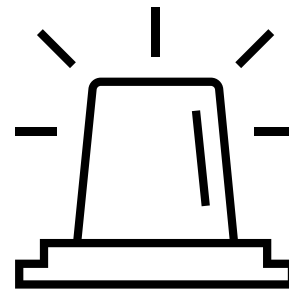
What does this Bible passage tell us?

In Mark's Gospel, this reading comes just before the Last Supper. Jesus is preparing His disciples for the future, encouraging them to stay alert and to fulfil the tasks which they will be given.

This season of Advent is when we not only look forward to Christmas but we also look forward with hope to Jesus' glorious return, the second coming of our Lord. This is a time of preparation and a time to reflect on how ready we are to meet our Lord and Saviour. Are we staying close to Jesus and doing our best to do the work that He has given us?

So how do we stay alert?

1. By setting aside time for prayer and Bible reading each day;
2. By building relationships with others so that we can support each other;
3. By worshipping and praising God, with others if possible;
4. Each of us has been given a specific task to do. Let us pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit to help us to do it well.



Reflections:

- Do you set aside time for prayer and Bible reading each day? In what ways does this help you?
- In what ways do you worship God? Try the free *Daily Hope* phone line - the number is on the back of this sheet.
- What tasks do you think God has given you? Give thanks to God and ask for the help of the Holy Spirit to do them well.

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

