**Preparing for Jesus**

**Mark 13:32-38**

* **There is no greater source to understand what is going to happen in the future of our world than the Bible.**

*“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!”* (Mark 13:32-37)

**QUESTION: *What steps do I need to take to be ready for Jesus’ Return?***

***PREPARING FOR JESUS’ RETURN REQUIRES:***

**BEING READY**

* *“Watch! Be alert! For you don’t know when the time is coming.”* (Mark 13:33)
* **The best way to prepare for the return of Jesus is to strive daily to live a godly life.**
* ***“****11 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief…14 Therefore, dear friends, while you wait for these things, make every effort to be found without spot or blemish in his sight, at peace.”* (2 Peter 3:10-14)

***Living A Godly Life Requires:***

* **Keeping our Mind Focused on Pure and Holy things**
  + *“Finally brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable—if there is any moral excellence and if there is anything praiseworthy—dwell on these things.”* (Philippians 4:8)
* **Living by the Principles Found in God’s Word**
  + *“All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness.”* (2 Timothy 3:16)
* **Allowing God’s Spirit to Empower and Lead Us**
  + *“I say, then, walk by the Spirit and you will certainly not carry out the desire of the flesh.”* (Galatians 5:16)

***PREPARING FOR JESUS’ RETURN REQUIRES:***

**STAYING ALERT**

* *“Watch! Be alert! For you don’t know when the time is coming.”* (Mark 13:33)

***We Must Constantly Be Prepared For:***

* **Attacks from the “World”**
  + **The “world” is the “world system” that is opposed to the principles, practices and priorities of God.**
  + *“Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride in one’s possessions—is not from the Father, but is from the world. 17 And the world with its lust is passing away, but the one who does the will of God remains forever.”* (1 John 2:16)
  + *“So whoever wants to be the friend of the world becomes the enemy of God.”* (James 4:4)
* **Attacks from our “Flesh”**
  + **Our “flesh” is our sinful nature that we’ve always had.**
  + **The "spirit" is the godly nature that we receive from our spiritual birth (John 3:5-6, 2 Peter 1:4).**
  + *“For those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit have their minds set on the things of the Spirit. 6 Now the mindset of the flesh is death, but the mindset of the Spirit is life and peace.”* (Romans 8:5-6)
* **Attacks from the “Devil”**
  + *“Be sober-minded, be alert. Your adversary the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour.”* (1 Peter 5:8)
  + **Understanding how Satan attacks and donning the “Armor of God” helps us defeat him (Genesis 3:1-5, Ephesians 6:10-19).**
* **We can live in constant victory over our “foes.”**
  + *“We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.”* (Romans 8:37 NIV)

***PREPARING FOR JESUS’ RETURN REQUIRES:***

**CARRYING OUT OUR RESPONSIBILITIES**

* *“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.”* (Mark 13:34)

***The “Work” The Lord Wants Us To Be Doing Includes:***

* **Caring for Other Christians**
  + *“For God is not unjust; He will not forget your work and the love you demonstrated for his name by serving the saints—and by continuing to serve them.”* (Hebrews 6:10)
* **Building His Church**
  + *“So, then, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with the saints, and members of God’s household, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. 21 In him the whole building, being put together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. 22 In him you are also being built together for God’s dwelling in the Spirit.”* (Ephesians 2:19-22)
* **Sharing our Faith**
  + *“Then he said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.”* (Mark 16:15)
  + **Big Question – *“Will anyone be in Heaven because of me?”***
* **Making Disciples**
  + ***“****Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”* (Matthew 28:19-20)
* **Helping Hurting people**
  + *“When the Son of Man comes in his glory…33 He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on the left. 34 Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 35 ‘For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink; I was a stranger and you took me in; 36 I was naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you took care of me; I was in prison and you visited me.’ 37 Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and take you in, or without clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick, or in prison, and visit you?’ 40 And the King will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”* (Matthew 25:31-40)
* **Renew Church is designed to help us better care for others, build God’s Church, reach people with the Gospel, make Disciples and help Hurting People.**
* *“Be ready for service and have your lamps lit. 36 You are to be like people waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet…38 If he comes in the middle of the night, or even near dawn, and finds them alert, blessed are those servants.”* (Luke 12:35-38)

**CONCLUSION**

* **Jesus is coming back.**
* **He is coming back at a time when we least expect it.**
* **When he comes back He is going to be looking for those who are prepared for Him.**
* **Are you going to be in that number?**