

Awake While We Wait

How Do We Live Faithfully While We Wait for Christ?

CLASSROOM EDITION

First Sunday of Advent - November 29, 2026

Primary Scripture: Mark 13:24-37 (KJV)

"The question is not simply when Christ will come, but how He will find us living when He does."

Opening Thought

Advent is more than a countdown to Christmas. We remember that Christ has come, we live in His presence now, and we look forward to His coming again. Jesus teaches that waiting for Him is not passive. It is watchful, faithful, steady living.

Read the Scripture Together

Mark 13:24-37 (KJV)

24 But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light,
25 And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken.
26 And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.
27 And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.
28 Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is near:
29 So ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, even at the doors.
30 Verily I say unto you, that this generation shall not pass, till all these things be done.
31 Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.
32 But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.
33 Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.
34 For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch.
35 Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning:
36 Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping.
37 And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.

Part 1 - Waiting for Christ

Jesus speaks plainly about His coming. The emphasis is not on satisfying every curiosity about the future, but on the certainty that He will come and gather His people.

1. When you hear the word waiting, what comes to mind? Why is waiting hard for us?

2. When Jesus speaks about His coming in verses 24-27, where does He place the emphasis - on calculating a date, or on trusting that He will come?

Part 2 - Learning to Watch

In verses 28-31, Jesus uses the fig tree to teach His followers to be spiritually attentive.

3. What is the difference between being watchful for Christ and being worried about what is happening in the world?

Follow-up: Can we become so interested in the signs of Christ's return that we lose sight of Christ Himself?

4. Jesus says, "Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away." Why does that promise matter in uncertain times?

Part 3 - We Don't Know When

Verses 32-33 turn the discussion away from date-setting and toward readiness.

5. If Jesus tells us that no one knows the day or hour, why do you think people have spent so much time trying to determine exactly when He will return?

6. If we knew exactly when Christ was returning, do you think it would change the way some people lived? What does that tell us about the kind of readiness Jesus desires?

Part 4 - Faithful While We Wait

In verses 34-37, Jesus pictures a man leaving his house and giving his servants responsibilities. They do not know exactly when their master will return, but they do know what they have been given to do.

7. What were the servants supposed to be doing while they waited for their master?

8. What has Christ entrusted to us while we wait for Him?

Follow-up: Could being ready for Christ be less about watching the sky and more about faithfully doing what He has already given us to do?

Part 5 - Awake While We Wait

Jesus closes this section with a repeated command: "Watch." His warning is not meant to produce panic. It is meant to produce spiritual attentiveness.

9. What might spiritual sleepiness look like in a Christian's life?

10. What helps us remain spiritually awake?

Advent reminds us of two great truths: Christ came, and Christ will come again. Between those truths stands the Church - waiting, watching, serving, and trusting.

Personal Application

11. Where in your life are you waiting on God right now, and what would faithful waiting look like there?

12. If Christ came today, what would you want Him to find you faithfully doing?

Closing Thought

The most important question is not, "When will Christ come?" The question is, "How will He find me living when He does?"

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, You came into this world just as You promised, and You have promised that You will come again. Teach us to wait without becoming discouraged, to watch without becoming afraid, and to serve without becoming weary. Keep our hearts awake. Help us to be faithful with whatever You have placed before us today, so that whenever You come, You will find us trusting You, serving You, and looking to You. Amen.

Notes
