

**“Take Heed!”**

1. Tribulation (13:1-27)
2. Tree (13:28-32)
3. **Take Heed (13:33-37; cf. Matt. 24:36-51; Luke 21:34-36)** – “Take heed, keep on the alert; for you do not know when the *appointed* time will come. <sup>34</sup> “*It is like a man away on a journey, who upon leaving his house and putting his slaves in charge, assigning to each one his task, also commanded the doorkeeper to stay on the alert.* <sup>35</sup> “Therefore, be on the alert — for you do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether in the evening, at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning — <sup>36</sup> in case he should come suddenly and find you asleep. <sup>37</sup> “What I say to you I say to all, ‘Be on the alert!’ ”
  - a. **Admonition (33)**
  - b. **Illustration (34)**
  - c. **Application (35-37)**
    - 1) **What (35a)**
    - 2) **Why (35b-36)**
    - 3) **Who (37)**

**So What?**

## Discussion & Application:

1. What does it mean to “take heed, keep on the alert”? (See v. 9, 23, 33, 35, 37) Why does Jesus have to say it so many times to His disciples?
2. If we knew the exact day and hour Jesus was returning what might most people do: a) be watchful, faithful, and ready all the time anyway; b) do whatever they want until about a few days before Jesus comes back and then get busy? How should not knowing when He will return help with this tendency?
3. Mt. 6:33 says that we should seek FIRST the kingdom of God. What are some of the “good” things that divert our attention from the Kingdom of God? What are some of the “bad” things that divert our attention from the kingdom of God? What can we do on a daily basis to keep our eyes fixed on things above (Col. 3:1-4)?
4. Mark 13:34 describes the Master assigning tasks to His slaves to carry out while He is gone. What tasks has the Lord given to you to carry out in His Church? What spiritual gifts has the Lord given to you? What specific tasks in the church are associated with those gifts? Are you faithfully carrying out those tasks? If not, why not? How would a deeper understanding of and conviction concerning the imminent return of the Lord Jesus Christ impact your excuses for not carrying out your tasks?
5. What was the responsibility of the doorkeeper? Jesus speaks of four three-hour watches at night: evening (6-9pm); midnight (9pm-12am); rooster crows (12am-3am); and morning (3am-6am). Is Jesus saying it is wrong to ever go to sleep? When is it appropriate to sleep and when is it inappropriate to sleep? What is the point He is making?
6. Why was it important for Jesus to make the statement in v. 37? Why was it important for Mark to write this down for his readers? How many people does this command apply to throughout the history of the church?
7. Read Mark 14:32-42. How well did the disciples keep Jesus’ command to keep on the alert? What excuse might they have offered for falling asleep? Why was it so important that they watch and pray at that time? What did they miss about the significance of the moment and why they needed to stay awake?
8. Is your life counting for eternity? Are you faithfully carrying out what the Master has assigned for you to do? Do the following areas of your life reflect a commitment to Jesus and His Kingdom:
  - Thought life (daily in God’s Word and meditating day & night upon eternal things – Ps. 1)
  - Schedule / use of time (including “leisure” time – Eph. 5:15-18)
  - Finances (100% of it, not just a tithe; even your will / trust)
  - Relationships (with believers and unbelievers)
  - Consistent, active, specific participation in the local church (1 Cor. 12-14; Heb. 10:24-25; 1 Pet. 4:10-11)
  - Commitment to making disciples (Mt. 28:16-20) both locally and globally (Acts 1:8)

➤ If they don’t, what will you start doing today to change that? If they do, how could you excel still more?