

The Life Challenge

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10

Series: Following Hard After Jesus

Title: Keep Watch

Text: Mark 13:32-15:15

Speaker: Matt Ewert

Date: March 17, 2019



WARM-UP

Share one personal "take away" from the teaching this past weekend.

DISCUSSION

Read Mark 13:32-37

The procrastinators among us may want to hide when we read this passage. Definite deadlines are our "friend" because they help us know how far back we can push something we are responsible for, no matter how important or valuable, and yet still get it done. But Jesus doesn't say when He'll return. He doesn't give us the deadline, which means we need to get out of our comfort zones and get to work now!

- What is your understanding of what Jesus calls His followers to when He says to "keep watch" (NIV) or "stay awake" (ESV)?
- How can we maintain an appropriate sense of urgency in life so that we don't "wait" to fully engage in the work God calls us to?
- What are the significant things that keep us from living "watchful" or "awake" lives?

Read Matthew 24:45 - 25:13

- What do you learn from this passage? What further thoughts about "watchfulness" come to mind as you read this text?
- What characteristics do you note about those who live in a state of "readiness"?
- What characteristics do you note about those who do not live in a state of "readiness"?

On Sunday, using four "scenes" leading up to Jesus crucifixion in the gospel of Mark, Pastor Matt highlighted four ways in which Jesus demonstrated watchfulness:

1. Unreservedly giving of oneself for the sake of others
2. Submitting to God's will in a time of challenge
3. Freely proclaiming Jesus' identity as savior
4. Willingly choosing the way of the cross...dying to self for the sake of the mission of God

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DISCUSSION

- Which of these four calls to watchfulness do you find most difficult to live out?
- Which of these four examples of watchfulness do you embrace most consistently?

Jesus' call is urgent and the work is right in front of us. Either the Master will return and find that we've embraced a myriad of excuses for not getting started, or He will return and see that we've engaged in active participation in the kind of life He's asked us to live.

- Spend time praying for one another, that each member of your group would live with appropriate urgency; engaging NOW in the work God has given us and in a state of watchfulness knowing that our Master has promised to return.

(Life Group Leaders: We would love to have feedback in regards to any questions your group has from this, or any future Life Group discussion. While we may not be able to engage in every question, we are looking to create a forum by which to carry on the conversation and engage with feedback and questions as we are able. Please use the form at <https://www.southabbotsford.com/Messages> to interact in this way.)