



Are You Ready?

What would your answer be if someone were to ask you, “Are you ready to meet your maker?” This advent season is a wonderful time to remember that Jesus promised to return to us. Acts 1 states to us that when He arose into heaven, angels told His disciples, “*This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven*” (Acts 1:11b).

Advent begins with a challenge to get ready for the anticipated return of Jesus. For some it will be a time of worry and trouble, for others it will be a time of celebration. Though for all of us there is a warning that the worldly issues may be difficult. Jesus says, “*Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near*” (Luke 21:28).

In Mark, Chapter 13, Jesus tells His disciples that there will be certain signs before the end times: “*There will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down*” (v. 2b). “*Many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray. And when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. This must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. These are but the beginning of the birth pains*” (vs. 6-8).

And Jesus warns us to be on guard, be well prepared for this coming, and do not let it surprise or worry you: *And Jesus began to say to them: “See that no one leads you astray”* (v. 5). “*... do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit*” (v. 11b). “*Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come*” (v. 33). The real questions: are you ready and what do you need to get in order to be prepared?

During this season, write down what you think needs to happen personally in your life so you will be ready for the return of your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We can learn to experience how Jesus leads us to be prepared by reading Matthew 25: *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. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.” And the King will answer them, “Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me”* (vs. 34-36; 40).

But rest assured that you are ready. Jesus lived and died and rose again for you. Jesus’ death and resurrection provided forgiveness for all your sins and because of this you stand in readiness for the return of Jesus.

Prayer: Dear Lord, I ask that You would keep me awake and alert and that I may hear Your voice. Thank You for Your grace and love. Keep my eyes turned toward You. In the name of Your Son, Jesus, I pray. Amen.

Scripture references are from the ESV.

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