

The Return of Christ

Discussion Questions for Mark 13:14-26

1. What is it like to wait for a guest who has not told you exactly when he or she will arrive?
2. Why is it so difficult to wait patiently for an exciting event (such as an upcoming party, vacation, or Christmas)?
3. How would you act differently if the exact time of an exciting upcoming event was unknown to you?
4. To what “day” was Christ referring? (13:32)
5. Why didn’t Christ tell us the exact time when He would return to earth? (13:32)
6. In what way did Jesus live by faith and obedience to the Father? (13:32)
7. What will Jesus’ return be like? How? (13:34)
8. What example did Jesus use to explain what His return to earth will be like? (13:34)
9. Who are the servants to which Christ referred? (13:34)
10. What should the “servants” do to occupy their time while they wait for the owner’s return? (13:34)
11. Who is the “owner of the house” in Jesus’ story? (13:34–35)
12. What conclusion did Jesus draw from the fact that the day of His return is secret? (13:35)
13. What might happen if the “owner of the house” returned suddenly and the servants were not watching carefully? (13:36)
14. What did Jesus want us to do? (13:37)
15. Why do you think Jesus felt that being on guard was such an important point to emphasize to His disciples?
16. How does this passage emphasize the fact that even Jesus had to live by faith and obedience to the Father?

17. How can we follow Christ's example of living in complete faith and obedience to the Father?
18. How does Jesus' teaching in this passage relate to the previous section?
19. What task do you think God has given you until His return?
20. How do you think the disciples would have responded if Jesus had told them He would not return for at least another 2,000 years?
21. How might a detailed outline of future events be a hindrance, instead of a help, to our faith in God?
22. In light of Jesus' words, how should we respond to those who try to set dates for the Second Coming of Christ?
23. How should we occupy our time as we wait for Christ to return?
24. What tends to distract us from living for Christ?
25. In what way do we need to be on guard until Christ returns?
26. Against what do we need to watch out?
27. What practical effect should the warnings of Jesus regarding His return have in your life?
28. How can you "keep watch" in your day-to-day activities at work?
29. What distractions might you be able to set aside from your life? How?
30. What is one pursuit you want to add to your routine in light of this passage?