

6.12.C(56).Awakened House- Watching for Signs. Mark 15:28-36..

As a Shepherd of the Lord's House, this last characteristic of a healthy house may elude you—why must you “stay awake” as a House (15:36)? Before we address the value of *staying awake* and avoiding the allure of sleep.

⁶ So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. ⁸ But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 1
Thessalonians 5:6-8.

When Paul and Jesus talk about “sleep,” they mean giving in to the *darkness* and the Godless

night. That is, when a child of the household, who belongs to the “Day” and light of God’s new life, when such a child gives in to the *darkness* and sleeps, he behaves as if he was *dead in the world*, dead to the light.

So, as a Shepherd of the Lord’s House, be on “guard”—protect your household. Don’t let any fall asleep—that is, have any part of the night and sin, but sanctify yourselves for the Lord’s coming!

Case Study: a little sleep is a dangerous thing.

It is no exaggeration that sleep kills. Anyone who has driven late at night and/or on a long road trip knows the danger of micro-sleep. Giving in when the mind says, “Close your eyes for just a second” can give in to sleep’s grip, and the next moment you will find your car out of control! After a late night as a graduate student in Chicago, I was rushing home to the suburbs on the I-294 as I battled bursts of micro-sleep. I suddenly felt the steering wheel jerk to the left,

and I opened my eyes just in time to see my car veering away from its headlong hurtle into a concrete pillar! I had fallen asleep, and (I believe) angelic intervention pulled my steering wheel before I then woke up!

In this way, I've found that "micro-sin" can be just as deadly for the disciple. Just a moment off guard can be catastrophic. As I write this on Wednesday, Sunday the 13th of September approaches when I expect to meet our Lord in the air. If you are reading this *Kingdom Discipleship* series, this is the last few pages I need to finish. Last night, as I was set to work on these last few page, I felt my guard dropping: "It's time to give yourself a break" I heard. For the ending months of summer, I had sworn off social media, which was a distraction. So, I told myself I would take a short break, lie down, and spend some time on social media, on a website that was supposed to be family friendly. As I scrolled, lewd images popped up. I didn't look

away, and soon fell asleep. When I woke up, I picked up my phone again and fell into defiling lust.

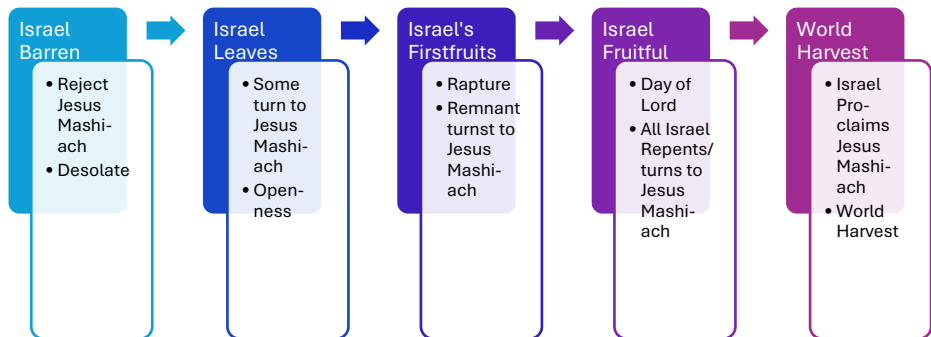
So, Shepherds, for your own sake and the sake of your people, remember that sin is just as deadly now as the day you were first freed from it. In the last days of his ministry, Paul said, “I am the worst of sinners” (1 Timothy 1:15), using the present tense. He does not say, “I was the worst of sinners.” How can that be?

Until the Lord resurrects you, your Spirit-born self is alive, but your *flesh is dead*. And, *dead flesh* cannot grow, it cannot be controlled or tamed. Rather, your sanctification comes when you “crucify the flesh” in Jesus Mashiach (Galatians 5:24), putting the deeds of the body to death by the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:13). That is, your sanctification comes when you give the Spirit leadership in your life, more and more consistently. But, do not think that this affords

you a little time for *sleep*, to indulge the flesh and give in to its desires. For, the *darkness of death* is consuming, and it will threaten to take you over completely. So, “Be on Guard, and keep awake!” Jesus says.

Even though Jesus tells his Church to “learn” from the “fig tree” to watch for its fruitfulness, alerting his shepherds to prepare for the nearing time, his exhortation to watch and *learn* applies to you in your time as well! As a shepherd:

- **Learn from Israel:** Until the Lord establishes his universal Kingdom in Jerusalem, God’s work in Israel will be a central indicator of the times and how to prepare:



- Faith Walk:** Watch for the “Day” of the Lord’s return. Now, when the Lord Jesus says, “But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father” (Mark 13:32), he uses the word “concerning” to indicate its unknowability. That is, concerning, or “peri”—the circumstances surrounding these events, or “about” the events themselves, no one knows. However, many have *deleted the “peri”* so that verse reads, “no one knows the day nor the hour” (13:32) after the Lord has repeatedly exhorted his people to watch for it, look for signs, and the Father has even given a promise regarding its timing... “two days” (Hosea 6:2) after the start of Israel’s desolation, which began in 33 CE, the moment Israel rejected Jesus, the risen Mashiach, as its Lord. So, clearly, we are not to know of the events and the surrounding circumstances of these events—that is, as if the fleshly nature could

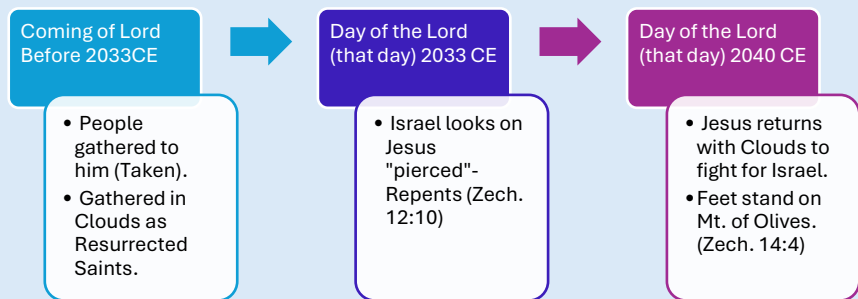
do anything to control or engineer these events. Rather, we are told to look for, anticipate, and even prepare in advance to act when the events come upon us!

The Day of the Lord:

When the Lord talks about the Last Days, he often talks about “The Day of the Lord” or “That Day.” Generally, the “Day of the Lord” can refer to two distinct Last Days events which *culminate* the events leading up to them. That, is, these references to “the Day of the Lord” are climactic destinations, acts of God, which we should expect and hope for. And, around the *periphery* of these days is the term “the coming of the Lord.” Of course, when the Lord comes, his people either *turn to him* or are *drawn to him*. So, let’s sort this out by starting with Paul’s statement:

Now concerning the **coming of our Lord Jesus Christ** and our being

gathered together to him, we ask you, brothers, ² not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that **the day of the Lord** has come. 2 Thessalonians 2:1-2



So, the first “Day of the Lord” mentioned by Zechariah begins Israel’s last 7 years as foretold by Daniel (Daniel 9:) when the Lord appears and the nation is *reborn spiritually*. After 3.5 years of Israel’s witness, the Antichrist takes

control over Israel and the world, which ends after 3.5 years at the Lord's final return.

Note: the Year 2033 CE is derived from Hosea's prophecy (6:2) that after 2 days (millennia), that is, following Israel's rejection of the resurrected Mashiach in 33 CE, Israel will be *revived* again—hence, the year 2033 CE. I'm expecting seven years prior to be the start of the Birth Pains at the “Coming” of the Lord for his Church, thus signalling to the Remnant that Jesus is indeed their Mashiach!

- **Be on Guard and Stay Awake:** in the same Way that *micro-sleep* takes over when we give ourselves to the call of the night, to fall into its embrace, we will *let down our guard* when we close our eyes to these coming events to take place.

To “guard” the promises entrusted to us is to remain ever *faithful* and *to live responsibly*,

especially as we see the signs of the approaching “coming of the Lord” appear before our eyes, and especially as we see the approach of the end of the “two days” draw near.

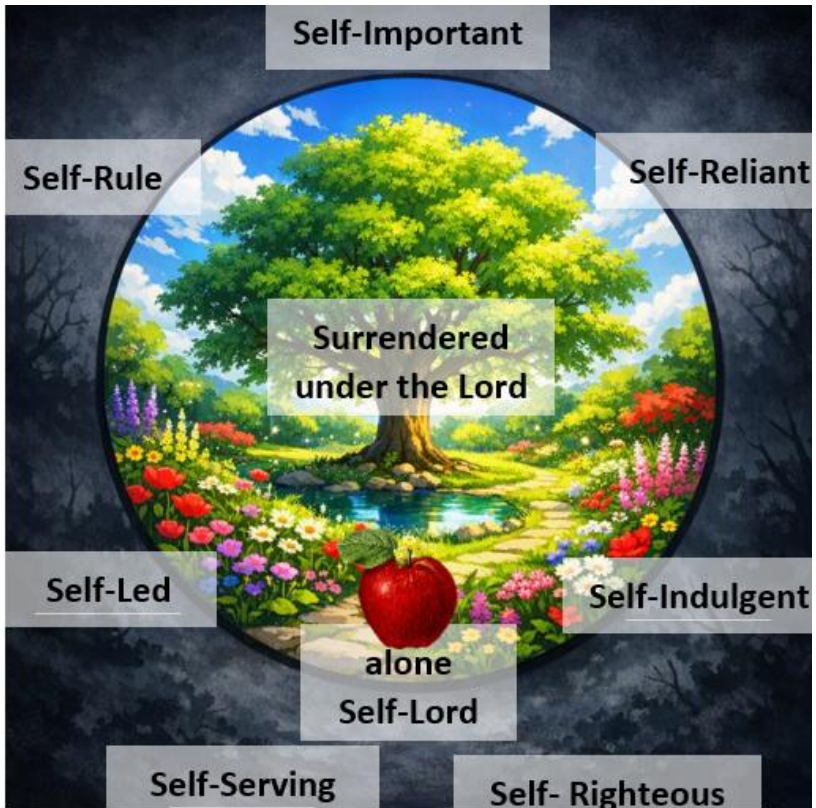
No Time for Darkness.

In the Last Days, there will be a deep slumber that comes upon the world. That is, with the coming of the Antichrist and Satan, the darkness enveloping the earth will become especially *direct and open*. In fact, this darkness will be so pervasive, that the natural *inclination* will be to sleep, to give in to this darkness and to become defenseless and blind to it.

This willful blindness and defenselessness is increasingly prevalent in the Churches at this point in time. The darkness seems to be invading area of life, so to “stay awake”—to remain as a member of the House and Kingdom of God, will take one’s total and greatest effort.

First, let's consider how the encroaching darkness is normalizing and naturalizing the darkness to make it the normal way of life:

- **Pervasive Darkness**: the inroads of technology into private spaces. In my earlier case study indicated, technology has penetrated even the most private spaces. Never before has the world had access to the hearts and minds of people so directly. Remember that the “eyes” are the lamp of the body, so “if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness” (Matthew 6:22-23).
- **Darkness of Human Ideals**: Redefining Humanity. Recall that *Life of Light* which the Lord God had given humanity and its first parents was a “light” surrendered under the Lordship and life-giving presence of the Lord God. To step away from this Life—standing



on our own grounds as a Humanity, was to step into the darkness. But the exalting of Humanity as Self-Sufficient was the result of the Western Enlightenment, and this *humanistic value* became the center not only

of Western Culture but also the center of Christian theology:

- **Sola Scriptura:** relying on personal readings and understandings of the Scriptures.
- **Sola Fide:** relying on faith as one's personal understanding and convictions.

So, in the Late Days before Mashiach's coming, this Humanistic Center of society has exalted *personal choice* to a powerful idol which entitles people to near total choice and license. It is a person's right to choose gender, sexuality, lifestyle, choices which warrant the State's protection.

- **Blinded by Complexity:**

Because truth is socially determined, any Debatable subject is rendered inconclusive, thus negating the possibility of a truth or revealed truth of a one true God.

- **Laughing at the Devil:** Finally, every subject,

Even the sacred, the terrifying, and the abominable are depicted by media and mocked, so that even the *dread Serpent* and his demons are mere content for jokes. But, this fictitious buffer between reality and terrible consequence is a thin and fragile buffer. But, people rest in this fiction of being insulated by evil because it is manageable and laughable.

All these very dangerous inroads of darkness should be rejected by disciples, who have no tolerance for the numbing and deadening effects of the dark. For, the Lord will by his coming judgments pierce this darkness, exposing its true horror:

¹⁰ The third angel blew his trumpet, and a great star fell from heaven, blazing like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers

and on the springs of water. ¹¹The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many people died from the water, because it had been made bitter. Revelation 8:10-11.

One day, Satan himself will be thrown down to earth in all his diseased horror, and this “Wormwood” will poison the waters and kill many.

How to Stay Awake in the Darkness:

- **The Light of the Word:**

Your **word** is a lamp **to my** feet and
a light to my path. Psalm 119:105

As a Shepherd, be sure that the members of your household are walking in the light of God’s Word. The problem in these dark days is that people will be exposed to the Word from a variety of sources,

but they will not actually *hear it* or *listen to it* for themselves. They think that merely hearing the sound of the Word will work magically in their lives, for so many modern conveniences simply require us to *select* or *activate*.

Here are some suggestions on letting the Word transform and illuminate the lives of your people:

- Listen to the Word: play the word for long stretches of time, to think on it, consider, contemplate, and react to the Word.
- Prayerfully read, listen, or hear the Word. As they are exposed to the Word, teach your people to prayerfully bring what it says before the Lord in an ongoing prayer conversation. Of course, memorizing the Word to do this is highly effective.
- Feed your people with small and easily applied portions. I send several dozen people promises from the Bible every

morning, along with praying for them according to the promise.

- **Walking in the Light by the Spirit:**

¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

Galatians 5:16

When you live your life before the Lord God in the light of transparency, the Spirit has the place to guide and direct you. When the flesh will desire to pull you astray, the Spirit will warn you and give you another direction to take.

However, if you repeatedly walk by the flesh, you will “quench” the Spirit and end up walking in darkness until your waywardness rebukes you, and you repent.

But, the Spirit will fortify your faith so that you will be able to walk in the light. Bringing Scriptural

Encouragement to mind, or songs, or affirming your choices.

- **Walk in Fellowship in the Light:**

⁶ If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. 1 John 1:6-7

Finally, learn to walk not alone but in fellowship. Walking in the Light of your Lord's presence. Walking in the fellowship of serving the Lord together. Then, you will enjoy the continual cleansing of the Lord's covenantal love and sanctifying sacrifice of blood.

- **Clinging to Jesus by Following Him:** (John 8:12).

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying,
 “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” John 8:12

It goes without saying that walking with the Lord Jesus by following his Commands keeps you out of the darkness. For, the very life which he gives you is light in a dark world, bearing witness of the Lord Jesus and his presence living in you.

The Last Days Duties of the Household Shepherd:

- **The Doorkeeper:**

³⁴ It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants^[b] in charge, each with his work,

and commands the **doorkeeper** to stay awake. ³⁵ Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come... Mark 13:34-35a

As a Shepherd of your Household, there are many duties you have as the designated “doorkeeper” for the Household. The “door” of the house is very important, because it gives access to the whole household.

- **Stay Awake!** Your primary responsibility as a Shepherd is to Stay Awake—that is, walk in Holiness to not be touched by the *sleepy stupor* of the Darkness. For, those who “sleep” in sin are drunk, they lose control of their faculties; they live in a stupor—deluded because they are blind to the Kingdom’s reality and power. Also, remember that in the spiritual realm,

your House can be infiltrated by unclean spirits. If your family is defiled by a recurrent sin, such as anger or Selfish Ambition or lawlessness, this *death* will poison the whole family. So, keep your life free of sin, to stay awake and *sanctify your family*.

Case Study: A House Defiled.

When I lived in the affluent suburbs of Chicago (in the *poorer areas for students*), a friend was a Christian Counselor at our church. He seemed to raise the perfect suburban family in the suburbs, with a wife and three teenaged children. But, something was not right in their household. As a counselor, it seemed as if he spoke in the *equivocal language* of his profession rather than the razor sharp clarity of the Word of God. To the great perplexity of the parents, something had entered their household.

- One son was a felon, convicted of theft and other crimes.

- Another daughter was found to be working as a stripper.
- The third daughter became pregnant as a teen.

It is the doorkeepers job to stay awake and guard the house against intrusion.

- **Let's people in:** The doorkeeper watches at the door, guarding against strangers or harmful threats. But, the doorkeeper also is the first to welcome those he deems safe into the family. Here, Shepherd, you must exercise great discernment and discretion. For, there are deceivers, false teachers, and wolves disguised as sheep who will seek entry into your home. Let the right people in, and keep the dangerous ones out.

- **Watches for Lord and Opens Door.** As a household, it is the duty of its members to celebrate the coming Bridegroom and greet him with Honor! In their prayers, they should call out, “Come Lord Jesus!” So, the doorkeeper should be the one to prepare his household to give Jesus free access to the Lord. In this way, Shepherds should be the first to come to the Lord Jesus, then open the door for him to be received by every member of the family (Luke 12:36). Some of you Shepherds will also “open” the Door for the Lord Jesus by removing obstacles for his presence.

- **The Household Manager/ Cook:**

⁴⁵ “Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over

his household, to give them their food at the proper time? ⁴⁶ Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. ⁴⁷ Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. Matthew 24:45-47

Finally, Shepherd, remember that you are in charge of the Feeding Schedule for your household. How will you make sure that each one is growing in the Word? Set aside regular times when the word is read and discussed. View this not as mere “learning” but “feeding,” that their spiritual lives are being nourished and nurtured to grow!

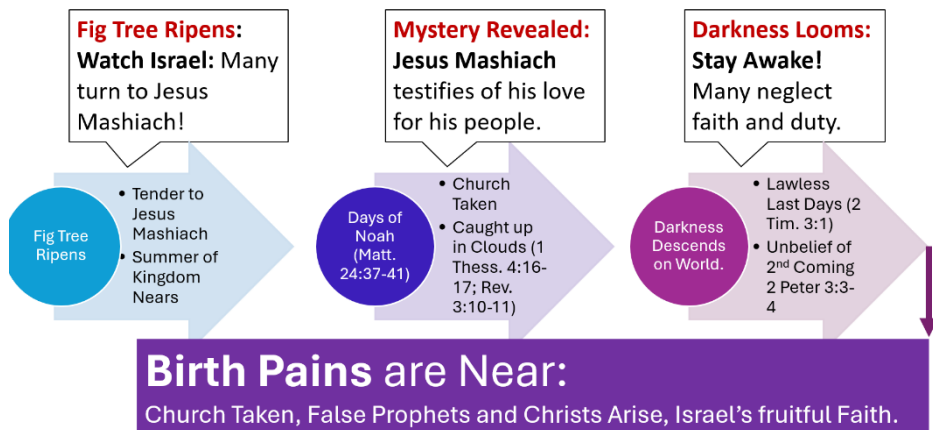
Verse.

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Background:

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Last Days Signs: Days of Noah.



Case Study: Watching at the Door.

Today, I am writing on September 12, 2026, one day away from the end of Rosh Hashanah, and all eyes are on Israel as the *last shofar* will blow its final *tekiah gedolah*. Who will be taken? For,

“all who call upon the name of the Lord will be saved” (Acts 2:21).

There was a young man who heard the Gospel in one of our classes, but wasn't given the chance to turn to the Lord. He had been coming to a homegroup meals, and he even asked people to pray for him and started to call on the Lord in prayer. But, when I invited him over to see if he was ready to give his life to the Lord, to turn to him, he declined, feeling pressured and wanting his “freedom.”

Would he be taken, if he did not want to acknowledge Jesus as his Lord but still prayed to him? He had just gotten a coveted internship after asking people to pray for him.

Oddly, after we finished our dinner at a Chinese food place, he asked for his fortune cookie, and his fortune was blank! Being of Chinese descent, that seemed to shock him.

But, what does the future hold for those who are turning to the Lord but have not given their

lives to him? May the Lord have mercy on all those who are turning to Him by faith!

Focus:

Consider:

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Question:

Further Discovery:

