

WEEK 1

WATCH!

A Global Call to Faithful Stewardship

SCRIPTURE TEXT

**Mark
13:24-37**

“Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’”

—Mark 13:35-37

Introduction

Jesus’ words in Mark 13 are not just a call to personal vigilance—they are a summons to global readiness. The imagery of the Son of Man coming in clouds with power and glory is not localized to one region or people. It is a cosmic event, and the response Jesus calls for is equally expansive: **“Watch!”**

Watching Is Stewardship, Not Spectatorship

When Jesus says, “Watch,” He’s not asking us to stare into the sky or speculate about His return. He’s calling us to guard what He has entrusted to us — His mission, His people, His message. Just as someone might ask a friend to “watch” their children or belongings, Jesus is asking us to watch over His global household.

This means:

- **Protecting the integrity of the gospel** in every culture.
- **Guarding against spiritual deception** that can creep in through charismatic leaders, political systems, or even family loyalties.
- **Staying awake** to the needs of the world, not falling asleep in comfort or complacency.

The Global Household of God

Jesus describes a man who leaves his house and assigns tasks to his servants. Each has a role. One is stationed at the door to keep watch. This is a picture of the Church — diverse, scattered across nations, yet united in purpose. We are all stationed somewhere in the global household of God, and our task is to be faithful in our corner of the world.

Whether you’re in Nairobi or Nashville, São Paulo or Seoul, your role matters. The global cause of Christ depends on every believer watching faithfully.

Watchfulness Means Discernment

Jesus warns of deception from:

- **False messengers** who come in His name.
- **Authorities** who misuse power.
- **Family members** who may lead us astray.
- **Miracle workers** who dazzle but distort truth.

In a globalized world, these threats are amplified. Messages travel fast. Influence is widespread. That's why Jesus says, "Be on your guard. Be alert." The Greek word implies active perception—not just seeing, but discerning.

We must be globally aware:

- Is the gospel being twisted to fit cultural comforts?
- Are we excusing injustice because it's politically expedient?
- Are we letting personal relationships override biblical truth?

The Danger of Sleepiness

Jesus warns not just of deception, but of spiritual sleepiness. This isn't about laziness—it's about losing awareness. In a world full of distractions, we can become numb to the urgency of Christ's mission.

Sleepiness looks like:

- A church more focused on internal programs than external mission.
- Believers who are more concerned with comfort than calling.
- A global body that forgets its global purpose.

Joyful Readiness, Not Neurotic Fear

Jesus isn't calling us to paranoia. He's calling us to joyful readiness. Like a faithful steward who has kept the house secure, we should be excited to see the Master return. This is not fear-based obedience — it's hope-filled stewardship. Imagine the global Church — watching, working, waiting. When Christ returns, He finds a people who have guarded His truth, served His mission, and loved His world. That's the vision we pursue.

Application for the Global Church

- **Missionaries:** Watch over the gospel in your context. Guard it from syncretism and dilution.
- **Pastors:** Equip your people to discern truth from error, especially in a media-saturated age.
- **Lay Leaders:** Be faithful in your workplace, your neighborhood, and your family. You are stationed at the door.
- **Advocates:** Speak up against injustice. Watch over the vulnerable. Protect the dignity of all people.

Conclusion: Watch with Joy

The call to "Watch!" is not just for Peter, James, and John. It's for everyone. It's for the global Church. It's for you. Let us be a people who watch with discernment, guard with faithfulness, and wait with joy — so that when the Lord returns, He finds His house secure and His servants awake. "Joy to the world, the Lord is come!"