

KEEP AWAKE

Mark 13:24-37

Wednesday, December 6, 2017

Mark 13 begins with one of the disciples commenting on how large the temple is. Jesus tells them that the days of the temple, which was the center of Jewish worship and life, are numbered and it will be destroyed and replaced with something new. He was then asked when this was going to happen and how would people know? Jesus says it is going to get very dark and very scary and things are going to change.

The word “Advent” is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning “coming; it also can mean “the arrival of a notable person, thing or event”. Often the events – the things that come into our lives - are good things; but what happens when those events, those arrivals, are not only unexpected but scary and painful? Life changes, our world falls apart, we lose hope, and it seems very dark. “Be alert”, Jesus says, “stay awake.” The darkness is not our enemy, as much as is falling asleep in it. We fall asleep whenever fear controls us, and we are deceived into believing there is nothing worth waiting or watching for.

Jesus tells us to remember that when the branches of the fig tree puts forth leaves, summer is near. When the darkness overtakes your life, be still and know that light and hope and love and joy are near. This is being in Advent – staying awake knowing that we will never be abandoned to the darkness; that the light of Christmas always comes.

Prayer: Oh Holy Spirit, help us to be patient in our advent times. Remind us that especially during the times of painful change, you are with us and within us, and always loving us. Help us to stay awake and alert during our times of darkness. Remind us that the darkness will not last forever – the Son Rise will come.

Starr Weaver, Certified Lay Speaker
First UMC, Shinnston WV, Mon Valley District
Starrshine797@gmail.com