

# SUNDAY GOSPEL BIBLE SHARING



**Wednesday Nov 29th, for the 1st Sunday in Advent**

**OPENING PRAYER:** Father in heaven, Our hearts desire the warmth of your love and our minds are searching for the light of your Word. Increase our longing for Christ our Savior and give us the strength to grow in love, that the dawn of his coming may find us rejoicing in his presence and welcoming the light of his truth. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

## **READING OF THE ASSIGNED GOSPEL**

- In the words of Saint Benedict, “Listen with the ears of your heart.”
- Please note a word, phrase, or verse that seemed to really catch your notice.
- A volunteer slowly read aloud today’s passage Afterwards, we have a few minutes of silent reflection.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

**Gospel**                      **Mark 13:33-37**

**Jesus said to his disciples:**

**33 "Be watchful! Be alert!**

**You do not know when the time will come.**

**34 It is like a man traveling abroad.**

**He leaves home and places his servants in charge,  
each with his own work,**

**and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch.**

**35 Watch, therefore;**

**you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming,  
whether in the evening, or at midnight,  
or at cockcrow, or in the morning.**

**36 May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping.**

**37 What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"**

\* [13:3–37] Jesus' prediction of the destruction of the temple (Mk 13:2) provoked questions that the four named disciples put to him in private regarding the time and the sign when all these things are about to come to an end (Mk 13:3–4).

The response to their questions was Jesus' eschatological discourse prior to his imminent death.

It contained instruction and consolation

exhorting the disciples and the church to faith and obedience through the trials that would confront them (Mk 13:5–13). The sign is the presence of the desolating abomination (Mk 13:14; see Dn 9:27), i.e., of the Roman power profaning the temple.

Flight from Jerusalem is urged rather than defense of the city through misguided messianic hope (Mk 13:14–23). Intervention will occur only after destruction (Mk 13:24–27),

which will happen before the end of the first Christian generation (Mk 13:28–31).

No one but the Father knows the precise time, or that of the parousia (Mk 13:32);

hence the necessity of constant vigilance (Mk 13:33–37).

Luke sets the parousia at a later date, after "the time of the Gentiles" (Lk 21:24).

See also notes on Mt 24:1–25:46.

## **QUESTIONS FOR SHARING**

What does the command "be on guard" mean for you?

Why is not knowing the time of Christ's return so important?

How does not knowing the day or time of Christ's return affect your love for God and love for your neighbor as yourself?

## **Commentary**

There are many ways that we are “watchful and ready” for things in this life, that we hope and pray will never happen. But what about our eternal life our spiritual life with Jesus that we Know will happen? (Why is it that so many in our world do so much about this temporary physical world and so little with the spiritual, eternal world?)

This weekend we begin the church season of Advent with the three-fold reminder that Jesus came (Christmas), He comes (Word & Sacraments), and He is coming again (as Savior or Judge).

We hear this Advent message as Jesus says: “It is like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with his assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. Therefore, keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back... If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping.” (v.34-35)

“Sleeping” here doesn’t just mean physical sleep, (although Jesus said to His disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane, “Watch and pray that you do not fall into temptation, the spirit is willing, but the body is weak.” And three times Jesus found His disciples sleeping!) In this parable, “sleep” refers to the very common indifference to the orders of the master; a flippant attitude acting as if we have the right to do whatever we want, regardless of what God says; living according to the sinful flesh, with no regard or obedience / even defiant to God’s Word and will.

**IS THERE A CAUSE FOR GRATITUDE THIS WEEK?**

**IS THERE A PRAYER REQUEST YOU HAVE?**

**CLOSING PRAYER - The Lord’s Prayer**

Bible Sharing Room 5 and Zoom

Wednesday, November 29·6:30 – 7:30pm

Weekly on Wednesday

Zoom Meeting

Description: Blessed Sacrament is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Blessed Sacrament's Zoom Meeting

Time: Nov 29, 2023 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZIkD-qgrj8qG9Rt4LoXWaku9w9Mo6AzLDCs/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGupzspEtSRsBiHRpwAHYigbzziClfjfpviEvJDBhkYwjjbUbH7opMcL8>

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86903804010?pwd=MGJydS9qSW9LSzNGblZSM2xZcWpGZz09>

Meeting ID: 869 0380 4010

Passcode: 086586

One tap mobile

+13017158592,