

**The Promised Return**

Mark 13:24-37

Pastor John Sloan

Introduction: After Jesus explains to the disciples that the temple of Jerusalem will be destroyed, he then foretells of a different, more cataclysmic event. He says that “in those days, after that tribulation” all kinds of incredible things will happen *and he will return*. But he doesn’t say when ‘those days’ are, nor what ‘*that tribulation*’ is. In fact, Jesus’ words spark far more questions than answers.

Q1. Could Jesus really come at any moment?

Q2. How important is it to anticipate Jesus’ return?

Q3. How do we “remain watchful”?

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1. If Jesus doesn’t know when he will return, what does this say about those who claim to have the timing of his return figured out? Why should we avoid such speculation?
2. What is the immediate purpose of Jesus’ return (see v. 27)?
3. Why is the coming of Christ the great hope of every believer? What are the macro (big picture) benefits?
4. How does anticipating Christ’s return factor into your daily thought patterns?
5. In the parable that Jesus uses to set up his return (vv. 34-36), what did the master leave the servants to do until he returns? Why is this significant?
6. What role does human effort play in our sanctification?

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