



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC My Master is Coming

SPEAKER Elder Goh Hock Chye

THEME End-Time Exhortation

DATE 19 & 20 Jan 2019

MESSAGE SUMMARY

MY MASTER IS COMING

In this message Elder Hock Chye reminds us of the words of Jesus in Mark 13. Commonly known as the Olivet Discourse, Jesus spoke to his disciples about tribulation and persecution before the ultimate triumph of the Kingdom of God.

Elder Hock Chye cautioned us that such passages need to be interpreted through the eyes and ears of the listeners, and that there would be different interpretations of events and timing. However, such differences do not need to divide us, but we can still come together on important common ground. And that is the importance of Staying Awake!

STAY AWAKE! THE MASTER IS COMING

In setting the context for the message, Elder Hock Chye gave an overview of Mark 13, splitting it up into 4 sections:

A) Signs of the End of Age (v5-13, 21-25)

The first section of this chapter informs us of the various signs of the end of the age, and encourages us as to how our response should be. In all these signs of false messiahs, rumours of wars, persecutions and tribulations, natural disasters, and cosmic chaos, believers are reminded not to be alarmed, but to have hope and to be prepared to proclaim the Gospel to all nations with the Holy Spirit's help.

B) How the Son of Man will return (v26-27)

After the signs, we are informed of the way in which the Son of Man will return. In stark contrast to how Christ came quietly as a babe in a manger, He will return with the clouds and with power and great glory.

C) The Timing of His return (v32-37)

Yet no one will know the day or the hour, except for the Father in heaven, and so we are all called to Stay Awake!

D) The Abomination of Desolation (v14-20)

In between these sections, Jesus speaks of the Abomination of Desolation. This was also mentioned in the Book of Daniel, and some scholars have connected this to events in 70 AD when the Romans conquered Jerusalem and massacred much of the population. General Titus conducted pagan sacrifice on the temple mount and soldiers eventually set fire to the temple and burnt it down.

Yet for the purpose of this message, Elder Hock Chye encourages us to focus on staying awake! We know that it is important that we stay awake, but what does it mean for us to stay awake? Elder Hock Chye shared with us 4 pointers for us to examine as we strive to stay awake.

1) BE READY

Firstly, staying awake means that we are prepared for Christ's coming again. As the eager bride, we prepare ourselves fully for the coming of our groom. We do not know the day or the hour, and so all the more we need to be prepared. Make right everything that needs to be made right. Receive Christ as your personal Lord and Saviour. Trust Him! Be plugged in to the greater body of Christ for encouragement and edification. Be ready.

2) LIVE TODAY

Secondly, we must live today. Live now. For we do not know if we will still live tomorrow. Only the Father knows the day and the hour when the groom will come and bring the bride home to where He lives. So we must not wait to live for Christ. We must not choose to live for Christ only after we retire, or after the kids have grown up, or after we get the next promotion or the next windfall. We must live today.

3) LIVE AS IF GOD IS IN CONTROL

Thirdly, we must live victoriously, boldly pursuing the mission that God has set out for us. Jesus did not die for us to live defeated lives, but to live victoriously for Him. We must reflect daily on what God is calling us to do in pursuit of our mission. Who is He calling us to form close relationships with? What help is He asking us to extend and to whom? Is there a call that He wants us to make? Do not be afraid to live sacrificially, give sacrificially, love sacrificially. Do not be afraid, for He is with us, and He is in control.

4) LIVE LIKE JESUS IS COMING

Finally, we must live like Jesus is coming. We must live in deep anticipation of seeing our Lord and Saviour face to face. To receive personally, from Him, the crown of righteousness laid up for us. To hear personally, from Him, the words, "Well done, my good and faithful servant." We live like He is coming, because we know that He surely is.

CONCLUSION

In summary, Elder Hock Chye reminds us that we stay awake by making a straight path for the Lord. If there is something in His way, something that is blocking his path to us, something coming between us and our Lord, then let us clear the path. Let us move the chair.

Is there work that God has given us that we are not doing? Are there people we have been called to speak to that we have not yet connected with? What is blocking us from being who He wants us to be? Clear the path, move the chair. Stay awake, for He is coming.

QUESTIONS

1. Recall the four pointers that Elder Hock Chye gave on staying awake. Share some of the times in the past when you may have struggled, or been victorious with some of them.

2. How close is the reality of the end-times to you? Do you think the master will be coming in your lifetime? Or your childrens' lifetime? How does this reality impact how you live your life?

3. Reflect on your relationship with Christ and pray for Him to reveal any areas of your life that may still be 'asleep'. What is the sin that He is asking you to deal with, the habit that He is calling you to build or break, the person that He is pointing you to connect to? How can you 'stay awake' and better ready yourself for His coming?