

Mark 13:37

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.

Analysis

Jesus concluded His discourse: 'what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch' (ὃ δὲ ὑμῖν λέγω, πᾶσιν λέγω, Γρηγορεῖτε). The command 'Watch' (Grēgoreite, Γρηγορεῖτε) means stay awake, be alert, remain vigilant. Jesus addressed the four disciples (Peter, James, John, Andrew, v. 3), but extends application: 'what I say unto you I say unto all' (pasin legō, πᾶσιν λέγω). This watchfulness applies to all Christians across all generations. We don't know Christ's return timing (v. 32-33), requiring constant readiness. Watchfulness means:

1. spiritual alertness resisting temptation
2. faithful service fulfilling assigned tasks
3. expectant hope looking for Christ's appearing.

This isn't anxious fear but joyful anticipation. The command's present imperative indicates continuous action—keep watching, don't stop. Every generation must live ready for Christ's return.

Historical Context

Early church lived in imminent expectation of Christ's return. Paul expected it (1 Thessalonians 4:15-17), though later anticipated possible death first (2 Timothy 4:6-8). As decades passed, some mocked delayed return (2 Peter 3:3-4). Peter explained God's timing differs from human perception (2 Peter 3:8-9). Jesus' command to 'watch' became standard Christian exhortation (Romans 13:11-14; 1 Thessalonians 5:4-8; 1 Peter 4:7; Revelation 16:15). Church history shows recurring movements claiming Christ's imminent return, often setting dates

(Montanists, medieval movements, William Miller 1844, Harold Camping 2011). All violated Jesus' teaching that no one knows the time (v. 32). The command to 'watch' doesn't mean calculating dates but maintaining spiritual vigilance and faithful service regardless of timing. Every generation must live ready.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does the command to 'watch' shape Christian living—avoiding both presumption (He's delayed, I can be careless) and speculation (calculating dates)?
2. What does Jesus' extension of this command to 'all' teach about every generation's responsibility to live expectantly awaiting His return?

Interlinear Text

ἃ	δὲ	ὑμῶν	λέγω	πᾶσιν	λέγω	γρηγορεῖτε
what	And	unto you	I say	unto all	I say	Watch
G3739	G1161	G5213	G3004	G3956	G3004	G1127

Additional Cross-References

Mark 13:33 (Parallel theme): Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.

Mark 13:35 (Parallel theme): Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning:

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