

take it up with Him. There is another important note about this verse, **“32 "But of that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.”** The main point here is that **“no one knows the day or the hour”** of His return. This statement clearly therefore **forbids** anyone **setting a date** for it, and we must be **wary** of **date setters** as they surely **arrogantly disrespect** the **words** of our Lord here.

**Mark 13:33-37** - 33 "Take heed, keep on the alert; for you do not know when the appointed time is. 34 "It is like a man, away on a journey, who upon leaving his house and putting his slaves in charge, assigning to each one his task, also commanded the doorkeeper to stay on the alert. 35 "Therefore, be on the alert — for you do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning — 36 lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. 37 "And what I say to you I say to all, 'Be on the alert!'" NASB

Now Jesus speaks to **apply** these **prophetic words** to those He intends to hear. **“33 “Take heed, keep on the alert; for you do not know when the appointed time is.”** The words **“Take heed, keep on the alert”** emphasize that we must respond to His warnings by **paying close attention** to the world around us looking for those **signs** He said would attend His Coming. We should consider the words of **prophecy** concerning Jesus Second Coming **very important** indeed. I have noticed a tendency among contemporary Christians the thought that prophetic events are very **confusing** and **complex** and therefore not worth the effort to understand. But nothing could be further from the truth. Many spends **hours** upon hours of **screen time** on **social media**, but **very little time** studying the **Bible**, and especially studying prophecy. Let us hear the exhortation of our Lord and **“Take heed, keep on the alert.”** Jesus clearly taught in this **Olivet Discourse** that His **Second Coming** would be a **deliverance** for His disciples, and that **when they see** these events **happening**, that they should **expect** this deliverance of the **Second Coming**.

**Luke 21:28** - 28 "But **when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.**" NASB

So in regard to that serious **worldwide deception** and **persecution** of those days just **prior** to my Coming, don't be surprised or overtaken in deception when tested, **“13:23 "But take heed; behold, I have told you everything in advance.”** Moreover, we must be carefully paying attention because we **“do not know when the appointed time is.”** We must be looking **eagerly** and **expectantly** for the Lord's return, and especially as He taught us, the **signs** that will **precede** His

return. He then explains, how we should take heed, **“34 "It is like a man, away on a journey, who upon leaving his house and putting his slaves in charge, assigning to each one his task, also commanded the doorkeeper to stay on the alert.** Look, this applies to you and me, and to **“take heed”** to Jesus words is like Him giving us tasks to fulfill in His Kingdom work. Christian **what** are you **doing** this week to **serve the Lord** with the gifts and talents He has given to you? How are you fulfilling your role serving His people in the Church with your gifts (Rom 12:3-8, 1 Cor 12:4-7)? Are you a **disciple-making disciple** like He taught **all** His disciples to be, and using what gifts and talents you have to see His Kingdom work come to fruition? Christian, what task has our Lord assigned to you, **“assigning to each one his task”** that you are **regularly giving yourself** to accomplish while He is away on His long journey? Let us solemnly consider His words and how we apply them to ourselves and let us not be lulled to **sleep** and **complacency** by this godless culture that we live in. Rather let us, **“35 Therefore, be on the alert — for you do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning — 36 lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. 37 "And what I say to you I say to all, 'Be on the alert!’”** Well these are solemn words indeed! But let us see them as the great **opportunity** to **identify** and **get busy** with the work of the Lord that He has called us to. When we become disciples of Jesus, we **sign up** for **service** and we **sign up** for **suffering**. No Christian is **exempt** from them and this an emphasis in much of Jesus teaching. And the work of the Kingdom is a **spiritual work** that benefits and **moves forward** the **work** of the **Gospel** in seeing people come to faith, and it benefits and moves forward the **work** of the **Church** in **discipling** and mentoring, **service** to others, and the **worship** of God. We **all** have a **role** to **play** in this and this is how Jesus tells us to **“Take heed, keep on the alert.”** Dear Christian, the Lord calls you to serious service, and this is much clearer where Jesus expands on these words in The **Parable** of the **Talents** in **Matthew 25:14-30**. There Jesus gives His disciples warning that they are to take their God given **time, talent, and treasure** and put it to **work** for **His Kingdom** and to accomplish the **Master’s** tasks. Let us stop and take heed and consider how we are **investing** our precious **time** in Christ’s work? How are we **spending** our **money** to serve the Lord? And what **specific talents** do you have that you offer to the Lord **regularly** in **self-denying toil** and **effort** for the **selfless benefit** of **others** who are coming to faith, or are already safely in the church? I hope and pray dear Christian that you have good answers for these questions. May God help us to see clearly the things He has called us to and may we **hear** those **blessed** words on the **great Day of Christ....**

**Matthew 25:21-** 21 "His master said to him, **'Well done, good and faithful slave; you were faithful with a few things,** I will put you in charge of many things, enter into the joy of your master.' NASB