

**I. Synopsis**

All the days leading up to Christmas, it is easy to focus on the external frills and trimmings of the celebration. During this season of Advent, we want to focus on WHO instead of WHAT. All the passages of Scripture look ahead to the time when Jesus will return to make all things new. In today's passage, Jesus tells a parable as to how we are called to wait for His return.

**II. Ice Breaker Question**

Discuss how you prepare for your Christmas celebration?

**III. Scripture:** Mark 13: 24-37(ESV)**IV. Discussion Questions**

1. Theologians term Jesus' return as "the eschaton." 1<sup>st</sup> century Christians believed that Jesus' 2<sup>nd</sup> coming was imminent. Some even quit their jobs to literally sit and wait for His return. Why do you suppose followers quit their jobs? Discuss the varied beliefs regarding the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming in our culture. Based on what people believe how is this reflected in their behavior?
2. Many have attempted to predict when the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming will occur in history. What are your thoughts regarding their predictions? Based on the Scripture reading from Mark, what are Jesus' thoughts regarding their predictions? How does fixating on the when distract us from what is important about Christ's return?
3. Jesus tells the disciples a parable as to how they are called to wait for His return (Mark 13:34-37, NIV). Based on this parable how are we called to wait? Jesus gives to His disciples assigned tasks (vs. 34) in order to bring glory to His Name. Who has He asked you to love in His Name?
4. During the season of Advent, how might you not get lost in the trimmings of Christmas? What action steps will you take so that you are able to "Watch!"(vs.37) for Christ's return? How will you make each day count?