

Wake Up, The King is Coming

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Matthew 3:1–12 NIV

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: “A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’” John’s clothes were made of camel’s hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not think you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. “I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

1. Repent Regularly.

1 John 1:9 NIV

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

2. Remember the Cost.

Matthew 16:24–27 NIV

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life^a will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.

3. Reach the Lost.

Matthew 28:19–20 NIV

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

Small Group Guide: Wake Up, The King Is Coming

Opening Question:

Have you ever been so sleepy that you almost missed something important happening around you? How does that feeling compare to what it means to be spiritually awake?

Living awake spiritually is a vital part of our walk with Christ. Jesus warns us to be alert because His return will come unexpectedly, like a thief in the night. It's easy to become distracted by daily responsibilities, worries, or comfort, but Jesus calls us to be vigilant and prepared—focused on His kingdom rather than temporary earthly things.

Living fully awake means intentionally staying connected to God through prayer, studying His Word, and practicing repentance when we fall short. It also means sharing the Gospel with others, knowing that salvation is urgent and that many are still asleep without Christ. As followers of Jesus, we are called to be a light in a dark world, to wake up from spiritual apathy, and to live with purpose and urgency. Remember, Jesus paid the ultimate price to rescue us from sin and death, and His return will bring justice and celebration. Our lives should reflect this hope and readiness, constantly pointing others toward Jesus and His kingdom. Staying awake is not just about personal preparedness—it's about living out the

For Discussion:

1. In what areas of your life might you be "spiritually asleep" or unaware of God's ongoing work?
2. How can remembering Jesus' sacrifice motivate you to stay alert and live with purpose?
3. What is one practical step you can take this week to live more intentionally, knowing Jesus could return at any moment?