

What Jesus Taught in His Final Days

As Jesus journeyed nearer the cross, he urgently taught the disciples about who he was, why he had come, and his mission from the Father. Over and over in the gospels, we witness a repeated rhythm of Jesus' teaching and the disciples' misunderstanding or resistance. We are not immune to falling into this rhythm ourselves. But, as we journey to the cross with Jesus during Lent, listening to him and studying his teaching provides the understanding we need to learn what it means to be humble and watchful servants waiting for the day when Jesus will return.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- If you knew you were about to die, what are the most important things you would want to communicate?
- How would you describe what it means to be watchful?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [*What Jesus Taught in His Final Days*](#)

READ [Mark 9:30-37](#), [Mark 10:13-40](#), [Luke 12:35-40](#), [Matthew 24:36-51](#), [Matthew 25:31-45](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- After studying Mark 9:30-37 and 10:13-40, hosts Scott Hoezee and Darrell Delaney discussed how the disciples kept misunderstanding or rejecting Jesus' teaching. Then, at the end of segment 1, Scott said, "Sometimes we get Jesus wrong for some of the very same reasons they did. So, we shouldn't be so hard on them, but we should take a sober assessment of ourselves and see where we get it wrong sometimes, too." What is your "sober assessment" of yourself? Where have you resisted Jesus' teaching? When have we as the church misunderstood or rejected Jesus' teaching?
- In segment 2, Darrell and Scott discussed how Jesus described a watchful servant: "Living the right way, doing acts of service and mercy; taking care of the things God has entrusted to you, and doing them in a Christlike way." With that in mind, what does it look like for you to be watchful in your life? How does this explanation of watchfulness compare with what you've heard or learned in the past?
- At the end of segment 2, Darrell observed, "Whenever we fail to do these things...whenever we shirk the work that we have been given...whenever we are not honoring in our word and deed, we can ask God for forgiveness...and then we can start again...to do the things that a servant does when he is watching to be ready." Do you think it's easier to recognize when you've failed or to ask for forgiveness? Why? What makes the other more difficult for you?
- In segment 3, Scott compared watchfulness to faithfulness. What do you think of that comparison? Is it helpful? In what ways do you think watchfulness and faithfulness go hand in hand? Are there any ways the comparison falls apart?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Luke 3:1-18](#), [Psalms 146](#), [Deuteronomy 10:17-21](#), [Proverbs 15:33](#), [Proverbs 18:12](#), [Ezekiel 33:1-6](#)

CONCLUSION

Darrell and Scott summarized the lessons we learn from Jesus' final teachings as he headed toward the cross this way:

1. We are called to be humble.
2. We must be watchful, active servants, mindful that we serve the King.
3. When we combine humble service and watchfulness, we get a life of service to the last, least, lost, and lonely of the earth.

Our hosts remind us that we do not do this by our own effort but only by the power of Christ at work in us through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

In what ways did you feel assured, encouraged, convicted, or challenged by this study and discussion of Jesus' final teachings?

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