Waiting for the Light:
November 29, 2026

The other day…
I had the television on…
Making background noise…
When this commercial came on…
And made me wonder.

[VIDEO - WaterBOB]

It makes me wonder…
If I need to spend $35…
And get myself…
A big old bathtub bladder.

Like somehow…
I'm unprepared…
If I don't have one.

It makes me worried.
That I don't have what I need.
To thrive and survive…
And what???
LIVE?
———————————————————————————
And that commercial…
Also makes me wonder… **[1 Last Days]**
WHY NOW?

Why are we seeing this 1980s commercial…
For an emergency bag of bathtub water.
What is it… about right now…
That is making people…
Stock up… on canned goods.

Buy bathtub bags…
And do all kinds of stuff…
That makes us feel…
Like the world is coming to an end
And we need to be ready?

Is it the fact…
That the technology is moving too fast?
With all the AI stuff…
And the system crashes…
That have been happening…
With the FAA…
Microsoft Outlook…

And a whole bunch of other…
Little glitches… anew one…
Every time you blink your eye…

Is it the fact…
That I get 5-7 phone calls a day…
From scammer machines… who are offering me…
$72,000 to get me out of tax trouble.
Or even better yet… they want to give me…
$252,000 for the business I own.

Did you know… I am the owner the church.
I think God might be a little surprised to hear that.

Or is it the fact…
That there are wars and rumors of wars…
That there is volatility in the stock market and gas prices…
That there is dissatisfaction… and disillusionment.
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See this is why…
I'm not crazy about…
The first weekend in Advent.

It always has the kind of bible text…
Where Jesus is talking about…
What we would call…
The End of the World.

But what he calls… **[2 Son of Man]**
The Return of the Son of Man.

Now remember…
The Son of Man…
Was another title… for the Messiah…
From the book of Daniel chapter 7…
Jesus claimed that title…
And used it… to refer to himself.
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And this portion of scripture…
From Mark… Chapter 13…
Is spoken… and written…
In reference… to the fall of the Temple in Jerusalem.

If we read the section…
Just before what we have today…
It's all about… the sacrilege of the Temple…
The destruction and desolation…
Brought on… by the Romans.

Which for the Jewish people…
Would signify the end of the world…
As they understood it.

The temple was the center of their faith…
Their life…
Their identity…
As the people of God.

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[3 Mount of Olives]
On this day… Jesus and the disciples…
Were sitting opposite the Temple…
On the Mount of Olives…
They could see the temple…
Across the way.

And Jesus said to them…
You know… a day is coming…
When all this is going to crumble.
And the people… will need to head to the hills…

And you will suffer…
Because you believe… in me…

That's the suffering…
He mentions at the beginning of this lesson.
The Romans… are going to destroy…
Jerusalem… and the Temple…
And it's going to be really bad.

And it was true.
It all happened in 70 AD.
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Then Jesus says…
AFTER that suffering…
Then other things happen…

The sun will be dark.
The moon will not give light.
The stars are going to fall from the sky…
And even the powers of the heavens…
Will be shaken.

Then. At that moment.
The Son of Man will come.
In the clouds with great power and glory.

Jesus will return!
Hooray???
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You know… I'm not sure… why this kind of lesson...
Fills us a sense of dread…
Gives us the willies.

I have a theory though. **[4 BEWARE]**
And it has to do with one word… in this text.
Jesus said… BEWARE!

That's the word we see painted on signs…
Outside of haunted houses…

Or to tell us there's a big dog…
Behind a fence…
That is going to bite us.
Beware… means… we should be scared.

Jesus said….
BEWARE… keep alert…
For you do not know…
When the time will come… and all this will happen.
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But the greek does not say… BEWARE. **[5 Blepo]**
The word Mark uses is BLEPO…
Which means… see…
Look. Understand.

Jesus was calling us… to… be aware…
To perceive what's going on around us.

But it's not like… BEWARE…
Something bad is going to happen to you.
Something wicked this way comes.

We have what I would call…
An IRRATIONAL FEAR.
That somehow when the Lord returns…
It's going to be really bad for us.
The world is going to crumble to pieces…

And we… are going to have to survive somehow…
ON OUR OWN.
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Well. That just doesn't make sense…

It does't make sense…
To ask ourselves the question…
When Jesus comes back…
What are **YOU** going to do?

Well… this same bible lesson…
In the gospel of Luke 21:28…
Jesus tells us what to do…
He says…

Now when these things begin to take place…
Stand up and raise your heads…
Because your redemption is drawing near.

Doesn't sound like he wants us to be afraid…
Jesus wants us to be PREPARED.
Not paranoid.
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Now there's another problem with this lesson.
Don't know if you noticed it… or not…

But CS Lewis… the great teacher and theologian said…
This was the most embarrassing verse…
In the whole bible. **[6 Mark 13-30]**

It's Mark 13:30. Jesus said…
Truly I tell you…
This generation…
Will not pass away…
Until all these things…
Have taken place.

Well… guess what… the generation…
To which Jesus was speaking…
They're gone.
Long gone.
Seriously dead and gone.

So. The conclusion is…
Jesus was wrong.

And the skeptics…
About God…
About believing in Christ…

Say… well if Jesus was wrong about this…
If Jesus made a prophecy…
That just wasn't true…

Then… maybe none of it's true.
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But CS Lewis… doesn't leave us hanging.
He goes on… to resolve the problem…
By leaning into… the Human Nature of Jesus.
The Incarnation.

He says…
If Jesus became fully human…
Then he had real human limitations… and constraints.

Just like every other first century Jewish man…
Jesus worked hard… and grew tired.
He walked and got blisters on his feet.
He experienced hunger.
And… operated within the limitations…
Of his human brain.

If Jesus is like us…
Then he has to be like us.
Everything you do…
He did.

Sleep. Eat. Drink.
Use the restroom.

Cry. Laugh.
Wonder.

And you know what…
His humanity… is what connects us to God.
If he hadn't become… one of us…
Then there would be nothing…
To make the connection…
Between us… this human flesh…
And God… the immortal light.

Jesus is the bridge to God.
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CS Lewis said… the second thing Jesus did…
Was admit that he didn't know.
He was ignorant… concerning…
When and how God was going…
To have him come back to us.

He just didn't know.

He admits it… **[7 Mark 13-32]**
In verse 32…
But about that day or hour…
NO ONE KNOWS.
Not the angels in heaven…
Not even the Son.
But only God the Father.

Only God knows.
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And see… I think that's the real problem.
Why we worry. Why we buy bathtub bags…
We want to know…

So that we can plan…
And do…
Whatever it is…
We need to do.

But… the point of this lesson is…
That we don't need to know.
This is a need to know basis…
And you don't need to know. Neither do I…
Neither did Jesus.

And he was ok with that…
Because he trusted God.
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However. WE live in… an information based world.
The need to know… consumes us…
We've been brainwashed to believe… that knowledge is POWER.

But we are not people of POWER… we are people of FAITH.
We are about hope.
And preparedness comes… not by what we know…
Preparedness comes… by trusting Jesus.
Believing that God has our best interests at heart…
Knowing that God loves us.

And when someone loves us…
We aren't afraid of them.
We are happy to see them.
We want them to come…
We get ready for their visit.
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Jesus is just asking us…
To act like he's coming home…
He's coming back to us…

He's asking us to be excited…
To live like he makes a difference… in our lives…
To hold the promise of his life and love…
Out in front of us… like a light shining…
In the darkness…

To be ready.
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Like a lighthouse. **[8 Lighthouse]**
There's not a storm every night.
There's not a ship… coming into harbor…
Every single minute.

But we keep the light shining in the darkness…
To be ready… when the time is right…
And the light is needed.

That's us.
We are lighthouses.
We are the ones…
Who are called to shine in the darkness.

We are the ones…
Who are ready…
For anything that comes.

Because we know… beyond a doubt…
That Jesus loves us.
That Jesus lived for us.
That Jesus died for us.
That's our eternal… promise…
Which we boldly proclaim.

And yeah.
Some people might say…

It's a waste of time…
To wait for God to intervene…
To wait for Jesus to return…
To wait and watch and hope.

But I'll tell you what…
If trusting God…
Hoping in Christ…
And waiting for the light…
To break into this world…
Makes us fools.

Then so be it.
Let's be fools for Christ.

Even as we walk in darkness…
Let's continue to wait for the light.
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Many years ago… **[9 Nunsense]**
I went to the musical Nunsense…
Have you ever been.
Well… it's very interactive…
With the audience…
And I sat too close…
Not understanding my mistake…

Until a sweet little nun…
Starting asking me questions.

It was a confirmation quiz.
So… she was asking me…
Very basic questions… about the faith.
She didn't know… I was a pastor…

Then… when I got the answers right…
She was so happy!
She called me up on stage.
I had won a prize.
It was a glow in the dark…
Statue of the Virgin Mary.

And she said… It glows in the dark.
I said… great… thank you.
She said… no… it really does…
Glow in the dark.

I said… ok… I believe you.

She said… no… you don't understand.
Come here… and she pulled me close…
And flipped her habit…
Over both of us…
Right there on stage…

And kept talking to me… under her habit…
About this amazing prize…

She said… I told you…
It glows in the dark…
I said.. yes… it does.

Have you ever hung out with a nun…
In the darkness…
Under her habit. No?

Well… she gave me the statue…
And said… since it glows in the darkness…
You don't need to be afraid… anymore.
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The basic idea of faith is…
We don't need to be afraid… of anything.

Why would the Son of God…
Go to all the trouble…
To become human…
To suffer… and die…
And to be raised from the dead…
FOR YOU… and ME.

Why would we think… that God…
Has anything other than love for us.

That's why we are getting ready for Christmas…
To celebrate again…

We are going to celebrate… what great lengths…
God has gone to… save us…
This whole season is… about the goodness of God.
And the love of Jesus.
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I'm going to finish with one little… **[10 No Fear]**
Powerful bible verse tonight.

1 John 4:18.
There is no fear in love.
But perfect love drives out fear.

Don't be afraid.
Just be ready.
As we wait for the Light!

Thanks be to God.
Amen.