



## ADVENT WEEK 1

### Hope

*Mark 13:33-37*

#### GOSPEL READING:

Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from his home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own work to do; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow or dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I am saying to you I say to all:  
Stay awake!

#### REFLECTION:

When St. Therese of Lisieux was dying from tuberculosis in her cloistered convent in France, some of her sisters referenced 1 Thess 5:2, “He comes like a thief in the night, are you not afraid?” Her response, however, embodied her spirituality, “How could I be afraid of the One whom my soul loves?”

- What do you think of her response?
- What do you think the “Stay awake” exhortation from the Gospel above can mean for you?
- Does it make you hopeful? Expectant?

The notion of ‘being ready and prepared’ resonates throughout the reading.

- Take 10 minutes to just sit with the Lord. What thoughts come to mind? What am I feeling? To what part of my life is God speaking through this reading?
- Read over the Gospel passage again and pick one word that stands out to you. Why this word? Ask God to reveal to you why this particular word seems central to you.
- If you have a journal, jot down one sentence to document a call to action, a concrete step, for you personally for this first week of Advent as you continue to journey toward Christmas.

#### SONG SUGGESTION:

[🎵 'Closer' - Maverick City Music, Brandon Lake](#)