

August 28, 2025

Daily Reflections



STAY AWAKE!

By Sister Jeanne Fallon, CSJ

An Excerpt from Today's Gospel

Jesus said to his disciples: "Stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come. Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour of night when the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and not let his house be broken into. So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."

MATTHEW 24:42-44

Reflection

This brief excerpt comes toward the end of Matthew's Gospel, just before Jesus' passion, death and resurrection. Jesus was speaking to the disciples of the *Parousia*, the second coming of Christ as judge at the end of history. This end-time is unknown to everyone; it is a time known only to God. Matthew's Jesus

uses various parables to tell us that we all need to **stay awake** and be watchful, attending to the will of God, because we do not know when Christ, the Lord, will call us home or when the end-time will come. We are invited to be consciously available to God, attentive to the God of surprises who longs to be close to us on our journey toward the fulness of the reign of God. Staying awake means living in constant awareness of God's presence, being thankful for God's closeness and tenderness at every moment of our being in this world.



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For Pondering and for Prayer

Last year on my birthday, I became very aware that this is 'an elder time' in my life, and I began to ask in prayer, how am I being called to live these precious years that I have left? I experienced the importance of being wide awake to this precious moment or season in which I find myself. At the same time, I was reading Pope Francis' last encyclical, *Dilexit Nos*, #8, and I discovered the following "life questions" which I share for your pondering:

"Who am I, really?

What am I looking for?

What direction do I want to give my life, my decisions and my actions?

Why and for what purpose am I in this world?

How do I want to look back on my life once it ends?

What meaning do I want to give to all my experiences?

Who do I want to be for others?

Who am I for God?"

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