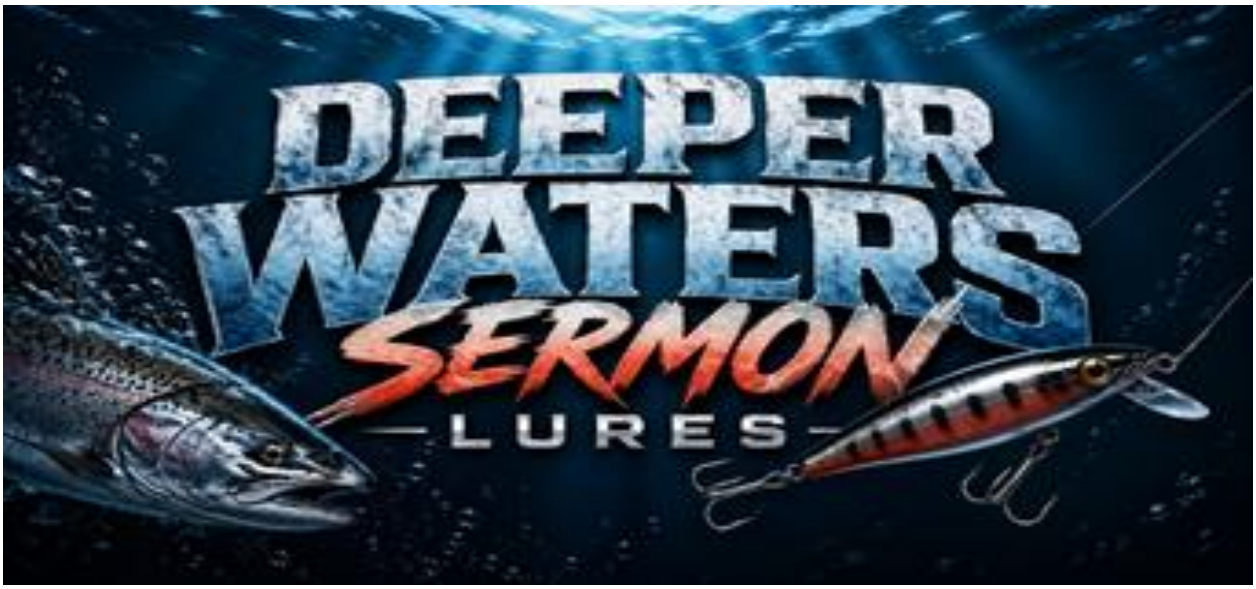


KNOW IT!

Advent arrives like an unexpected wake-up call, reminding us that life is about more than staying comfortable or distracted. Using Jesus' words to "keep awake," this sermon explores how we can become so consumed by busy schedules, endless entertainment, or worries about the present and future that we miss what matters most. Christ's coming interrupts our routines, not to burden us, but to bring new life, renewed purpose, and hope in the midst of uncertainty. In a world filled with anxiety about the economy, technology, conflict, and the future, Advent invites us to pause and notice God's presence here and now. Rather than pressing the snooze button on our faith, we are called to stay alert to the ways God is working in and around us. The good news of Advent is that God comes to us in Jesus, offering hope, transformation, and the promise that we are never alone.

READ IT!

- **Romans 13:11-14** – "It is now the moment for you to wake from sleep." Paul urges believers to live with alertness and purpose, recognizing that God is at work and that faith calls us beyond complacency.
- **1 Thessalonians 5:1-11** – Paul contrasts those who are spiritually asleep with those who are awake and ready, encouraging Christians to live as "children of the light" with hope and attentiveness.
- **Isaiah 64:1-9** – A heartfelt cry for God to break into a troubled world. Like the sermon's theme of divine interruption, Isaiah longs for God's presence to transform a weary and uncertain people.

- **Washington Irving, *Rip Van Winkle*** – Rip sleeps through a revolution and awakens to a completely changed world. The story raises questions about what happens when we "sleep" through the important moments and responsibilities of life.
- **Charles Dickens, *A Christmas Carol*** – Ebenezer Scrooge experiences a series of interruptions that awaken him from spiritual and moral complacency. Like Advent, the story portrays transformation through an unexpected encounter with truth.
- **T. S. Eliot, "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock"** – Prufrock's hesitation and paralysis reflect the danger of drifting through life without fully engaging its opportunities. The poem invites reflection on what it means to be truly awake to the present moment.

WATCH IT!

- ***A Christmas Carol* (film adaptations)** – Like the sermon's call to "wake up," Scrooge's life is interrupted by unexpected visitors who help him see reality more clearly and embrace a transformed future. Advent similarly invites us to awaken to God's presence and purpose.
- ***The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*** (2013) – Walter begins trapped in routine and daydreams but is awakened to a larger, more meaningful life. The film explores what happens when we stop merely existing and begin responding to the opportunities placed before us.
- ***Ted Lasso*** (television series) – Through kindness, attentiveness, and genuine care for others, the characters learn to move beyond distraction, cynicism, and fear. The show's themes of hope, transformation, and seeing people differently align well with Advent's invitation to renewed vision.
- ***Watch Your Mouth* by Tony Evans (RightNow Media video study)** – Available through RightNow Media, this study emphasizes spiritual awareness and intentional Christian living. While focusing on speech and discipleship, it complements the sermon's theme of paying attention to God's work in our lives rather than drifting through life on autopilot.

LIVE IT!

- **Begin each day with a two-minute "wake-up prayer."** Before checking your phone, news feed, or email, ask: *"God, where are you at work today, and help me pay attention?"* Advent invites us to start the day alert to God's presence rather than immediately getting swept into distractions.

- **Ask one Advent question each day:** *"What might God be trying to awaken in me right now?"* Reflecting on this question can help move faith from autopilot to intentional discipleship.