

December 9, 2023

You Just Never Know.....

Mark 13: 31-37

And since you don't know when that time will come, be on guard! Stay alert (and pray).
Mark 13: 33

When my wife Connie and I bought our first house (really small), we positioned our couch right in front of the large (really large) picture window in our living room. It offered a great view of the street and our neighbors.

As our girls grew older, they and our dog would often climb up on the couch and wait expectantly for me to return home from work. As I would drive by, I could literally see our dog's head follow me down the road and see him scamper from the top of the couch to hurry to the basement steps to greet me.

I have to admit that often it made my day! It's a warm and comforting feeling to know that your family has been eagerly watching and waiting for your arrival. Girls jumping into your arms. The dog wagging his tail to beat all.

At this time of the year, we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus. A babe wrapped in swaddling clothes who grew to bring joy and hope to generations of people. A new hope and a blanket of grace for all who would believe.

But Jesus talked often about His *second* coming. A very glorious coming. A time when "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever." (Rev. 21:4).

However, in sharing the good news of His return, He also warned that we should be prepared. We should be watching. We should not be sleeping and taking our lives here for granted. In Jesus's words, "Be on guard. Stay alert. Don't let Him find you sleeping when He arrives without warning. Watch for Him!"

Singer and song writer Jordan Feliz, in his song, "Jesus is Coming Back," sings:

*"And when the world gets complicated / We're gonna keep on celebrating
'Cause we know (woo) / That Jesus is coming back, Jesus is coming back (oh, yeah)."*

So, yes, when your world is topsy-turvy, remember that we indeed celebrate the birth of our Savior during these days, but....but we also work to remain prepared for His second coming which will bring even greater joy and usher in a beautiful time of peace and healing like never before. Come, Lord Jesus, Come.

Prayer: *Lord, may we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, as we diligently await your glorious return.*

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