

November 2, 2007

Advent 1

There are times in this life when the only thing you can say you know for sure is that you don't. You don't know for sure that is. When it comes to when the son of man will come, the one thing we can be absolutely positive of is that we don't know. In fact we can be pretty sure that if someone comes to us and tells us that they know when the son of man will come again, we can be pretty sure that they are misguided or trying to mislead us. The best thing to do if you met someone who says they know when the world is coming to an end is to ask them to sign all their worldly possessions, I mean all their earthly possessions over to you effective the day after they think it's all over.

Our reading for today from the gospel of Matthew says: **"But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.** So, I suppose that even though God wasn't going to tell angels in heaven or the Son, God decided to tell this person. Oh, no that's right, they figured it out. Jesus did say that there would be false prophets.

This morning you heard from some real prophets, the little cherubs that gave us God's message of love. But not all prophets are mouthpieces for the Lord.

Now you might have been told in school that we must learn as much as we can, that it is what know and learn that can help us, that can be useful to us. What you know will hopefully help you. But in this case it is, knowing that we don't know that helps us.

The teacher tells the boys and the girls of her class that she is leaving the room but will be back. They should continue being good students until she comes back. When she leaves there are some boys who immediately start goofing off. There are some girls who start flirting with the boys.

There are some other kids who would like to goof off and do things they would not do in the teacher's presence but they don't want the teacher to come in and get caught them doing it. However they have a problem. How long do they have to goof off? When should they start following the teacher's instructions? The problem is they don't know when the teacher is coming back.

I use to sell insurance. They told us the secret about Life insurance. You want to know the secret of Life Insurance. The best time to buy life insurance? Just before you die. Of course if the Doctor tells you that you have 6 months left to live it's too late to buy the insurance.

You see the common theme. We don't know when the end will come. We don't know when the Son of Man will come we don't know when we will die. So what should we do? Well there is only one thing to do – trust in Jesus.

That is part of the problem I have with the Left-behind series. For those of you who aren't familiar, two talented Christian writers created this series of books about what it would be like if Jesus came and took his chosen people and left people here. What would it be like for those left behind. It's what I would call Christian sci-fi. It has just enough real bible stuff to keep it together.

These books, actually I only read one of them. These books are a good fast read. But these books have been very troubling to some of my parishioners. When they read the books, they got caught up in the fiction and forgot who they need to put their trust in. Who they can put their trust in.

I would remind them, wait a minute, who is your Lord? Jesus. Who is your savior? Jesus. So If you are trusting Jesus, who are you afraid of?

So when we hear the reading for today and it talks about the fact that the Son of man will come at an unexpected time, it is a good reminder to be ready when ever it may come. It is a good reminder that the way to be ready is to put all of our trust in Jesus. To put our life in Jesus' hands.

I heard a story about a man who at age 65 went to seminary. They asked him why he did it and he said, He was in an accident. He was almost burned alive. When he was lying in the hospital, thankful to be alive, trying to make sense to it all, which there is not sense to it. While he was lying there he tried to figure out why he survived and what God wanted him to do with his life, realized that God wanted him to go to seminary.

This prophecy we receive today from Matthew is kind of a Christian intervention. Many times it takes Alcoholics to hit bottom before they seek help to change their life and realize that what they are doing isn't going to work. When friends and family of an alcoholic want to help their loved one they will often do an intervention, so that the alcoholic doesn't have to hit bottom before they get help.

This lesson for today serves as an intervention.

God doesn't want us to have to hit bottom by we turn too Jesus doesn't want us to have two almost be burned up with fire before we turn to Jesus.

It is Advent here's the prophecy Baby Jesus is coming it shows us. What does baby Jesus show us Kids? Jesus loves us and the best thing to do – is turn to him.