

Friday, March 26

Today's Reading: Matthew Chapter 24

Today's Devotional Message is by Matt Cesare

"Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him." Matthew 24:42-44

When I was younger, I would go on bike tours with youth from all over the country. The tours would take place in different states and the youth and adults would drive or sometimes fly to the starting location. Many times I would not know the other people on the tours until they began, but as an adult I would have to pick up youth at airports or bus stations. Their parents would always ask me, "How will they know who you are," a legitimate concern for their child. I would reply, "Oh, they'll know."

You see it was rare that I would go alone. Other experienced riders would come along and bring with them their bike helmets, bright orange bike flags, and large signs with the person's name on it. So when they got to baggage claim there were 4 or 5 or more of us looking pretty out of place amongst the business and other travelers. There was little doubt who was there to pick them up. In Matthew 24, Jesus is telling the disciples about the end times and to watch for signs. He gives them many warnings about false prophets, false signs, and things to be wary of. They respond, "How then will we know it's you?" He tells them, "Oh, you'll know."

Okay what he actually says is, "For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man." And "At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory. And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other." Yeah, I have a feeling, there won't be any doubt what's going on. So the only question is when is this going to happen. Unlike the youth I was picking up at the airport, we can't call ahead, or check the arrival board. So how do we know? People have been trying to predict the second coming ever since Jesus' resurrection. But Jesus makes it clear, we won't know, and no one is telling.

But Jesus does tell us to wait and be prepared. Do what is right, keep the house in order. Don't be caught off guard, for only the Master knows when he will return.

And so we wait. Doing the things that he has instructed and obeying the master as if he were already here, knowing that when Jesus does return, there will be no doubt.

Lord, you have made us your servants, to watch over the world until your return, grant me the patience to wait and the strength to work, not straying from you. Amen.