

A rock solid belief of our Catholic faith is that Jesus is coming again. The question for you is: Will you be ready for His return, or will He catch you unprepared?

When we talk about Jesus' Second Coming there is a tension between two extremes. Scripture shows us Christ's return is IMMEDIATE and DELAYED.

The belief that Christ's return is imminent is not new. Jesus' followers have been looking for His return right from the beginning. The disciples and the early church believed that they were living in the last days and that Christ could come at any time.

Christ's return is imminent; it could happen at any moment. Yet Christ's return is also delayed. Nearly 2,000 years have come and gone and we are still waiting for Jesus to return. Know, however, the Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

The tension between these extremes is broken by a third reality of Jesus' Second Coming: Christ's return will be sudden. Just like children playing hide-n-seek, Jesus will one day say, "Ready or not here I come!"

Jesus tells us in the gospel: So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him. Matthew 24:44 Now, Jesus' disciples did ask Him plainly: "when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" Matthew 24:3

Jesus' answer to them was not what they expected. Jesus did not gather them all in a huddle and say, "Okay, here's the plan for setting up the new age. God's kingdom will be established in so many days and this is how it will come about." Jesus did not spell out details of a timeline. Jesus didn't give an answer so a big red circle could be put around the date on our calendar.

Jesus did, however, tell his disciples what to look for when His time to come was nearing. He said there will be deception, worldwide birth pains, persecution, falling away, false prophets, wickedness, and worldwide evangelism. Matthew 24:3-14

Looking around at our worldwide condition, maybe you could see some of the "signs" upon us already. Deception from the truth, there's a check. Worldwide birth pains such as wars, tragedies, disasters, there's another check. Persecution, check. Falling away from the faith, check. False prophets and increased wickedness, check. The last sign is Worldwide Evangelism. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is meant to be preached to every corner of the world. Missionaries are doing their best to do that.

Jesus taught His disciples that everything he had shown them as signs could take place within their lifetime, but He did not just want them to sit and wait for His coming. Jesus wanted them to preach the gospel until He comes. The Lord wants us to do the same.

We live with the tension between the imminent return of Christ and the delay of His coming. Until that great and glorious day, we will be prepared for Christ's coming if we live by the Gospel, and share our hope with others.