

BRINGING HOME THE GOSPEL

November 17, 2024 • 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time • Mark 13:24–32

God Only Knows

In this Gospel we find another scary reading about the end times. Jesus tells his disciples that the moon will not give light and the stars will fall from the heavens. He tells his followers that while there may be signs, only God knows when the last days will be.

We don't have to focus on the end times to experience the feeling of fear and anxiety today. Just living in the everyday of this uncertain world can cause the same concern. So how do we learn to live with this uncertainty? Consider what it is like when a woman is preparing to give birth to a child.

I remember my ninth month of pregnancy, the Christmas before Phillip was born. He was due at the beginning of January. He was our fourth child. Roger Andy was six, Kristin was two, and James was a year. Strangely enough, getting ready for both Christmas and a new baby seemed to help me focus on getting things done.

It was probably the only year I was really ready for Christmas. I was so afraid I would go into labor early that my presents were bought and wrapped, cards were signed and addressed and cookies were baked by mid-December. My house was in order every day because I knew that as soon as I went into the hospital my mom would be coming down from Chicago to help with the kids.

That year I really enjoyed the Christmas season because everything was done and I was ready. I remember sitting with my feet up sipping hot cocoa listening to carols and watching the children play.

That was the one and only year I kept a daily journal for a few months. It was such a good feeling being ready—a feeling I had rarely experienced before and hardly ever experienced afterward.

I think that is the peace and joy Jesus wants us to experience as we live every day in these scary, uncertain times. We focus on what needs to be done and get it done. We get ourselves and our lives ready for whatever, whenever, and enjoy the present moment knowing that uncertainty is part of life.

FAMILY RESPONSE

Have everyone answer the following question: If you had only ten minutes to grab the things you wanted to take on a very long trip, what would you make sure to take?

PERSONAL RESPONSE

Other than your family members, what things are most valuable to you in your home? What do you want to remember from last week? What are you looking forward to next week? What are your concerns?