

HOMILY What is the Boy Scout Motto? BE PREPARED
What is the Girl Scout Motto? BE PREPARED
What is the point of this Gospel BE PREPARED -- FOR WHAT?

This is the 32nd SUN in Ordinary time – there are only 34 – so we're coming to the end

- So the Church gives us scripture readings about the end times.
 - Readings about the 2nd coming of JC BE PREPARED

READING 2 – THES are having a ***crisis of faith***

- Paul had evangelized Thessalonians – belief was, that JC would be coming back
- But Christians began to die before JC's return – now what?
- People began leaving the church – so Paul writes this letter about the 2nd coming:
 - “We don't want you to be unaware about those that've fallen asleep”
 - “When Jesus returns, graves will open, dead will rise to meet him
 - Those of us that are left will then join them to meet the Lord”

BE PREPARED – are you ready for that?!

Imagine experiencing JC's return as Paul describes it!

So how does this apply to us?

Jesus came to us as a child in Bethlehem - 1st coming **(Thessalonians)**
JC is coming back again - we don't know when, but He's coming - **JC's 2nd coming**

OR IS IT?

I think when JC comes back riding on the clouds with angels will be 3rd coming,
Jesus came 1st at Bethlehem – Jesus is coming again at the end of time **BUT**

2nd coming can be NOW, TODAY, in our hearts –

That aha moment when you realize you are God's beloved

God, the creator of the universe, loves me, YOU

When that reality takes root in our hearts its as real as JC in Bethlehem

JC can come to us today - in midst of our day to day lives

If we but have eyes to see and ears to hear the truth of Him coming to us

I remember a 9 year old about to be baptized – Daria

Before the baptism she told me “I be afraid” “I don't wanna”

Why – I don't want to be wet in front of everybody

If you don't get baptized who wins - “Da Devil?” I nodded & baptized her

After baptism she said “Deacon, I be not afraid, I beat the devil”

JC came the 1st time at Bethlehem – JC came a 2nd time in Daria's heart

With eyes of faith we can recognize JC's coming –

In our trials and troubles *AND in our joys*

Recognize Jesus coming, not just in Bethlehem, not just at end of time

but today, and tomorrow and every day

be ready to recognize Him, be prepared to welcome Him – He's coming