

# "Coming"

Hebrews 10:11-25

Mark 13:1-8

November 19, 2006

Well thanksgiving is coming - it is good to know that there is help available. According to Andy Ronney the two biggest sellers in any bookstore are the cookbooks and the diet books. The cookbooks tell you how to prepare the food and the diet books tell you how not to eat any of it. Yes, Thanksgiving is coming - it is a little bit of a problem in some sense. It is a fairly mild holiday that has become a day of football and food. But don't let it sneak up on you. Orson Well tells us that his doctor has advised him to give up those intimate little dinners for four, unless, of course, there are three other people eating with me." Thanksgiving is coming.

There is a lot of stuff coming up these days. It is not hard to imagine that all of us will be experiencing full schedules and lots to occupy our minds. I don't know what your lives are like but I know that there are times when it seems as though there is so much to do, for instance, in order to get ready for Thanksgiving that there is really no time to think about what I have to be thankful for. And it is not just Thanksgiving - it is all of the regular activities that fill my life. I find myself so busy trying to get a sermon written that I have little time to really consider what the Word of God has to say. It seems a bit silly - but it is my life. And I suspect that the same might be true for you at times.

I really love the story of the elderly man from Phoenix who called his son in New York one day to say, "I hate to ruin your day, but I have to tell you that your mother and I are divorcing; 45 years of misery is enough." The son was shocked and said, "What are you talking about, Dad?" The old man said, "We're sick of each other, and I'm sick of talking about this, so you call your sister in Chicago and tell her." Then he hangs up. Frantic, the son calls his sister, who explodes on the phone. "Like heck they're getting divorced," she shouts, "I'll take care of this." She calls Phoenix immediately, and screams at her father, "You are NOT getting divorced. Don't do a single thing until I get there. I'm calling my brother back, and we'll both be there tomorrow. Until then, don't do a thing, DO YOU HEAR ME?" Without saying a word the man hangs up his phone and turns to his wife. "Okay, honey," he says, "They're coming for Thanksgiving and paying their own fares. Now you have to figure out how to get them here for Christmas."

**It is easy to get too busy in our lives. Easy to get so caught up in living that we do not have time for God - time for giving thanks - time for family - time for all that is most important in living our lives.**

**In our second scripture reading today we are reminded that we need to "provoke" one another to love and do good deeds. We need to 'provoke' one another to meet together and encourage one another. It seems to me that, more and more in our world today as we isolate ourselves in our busy lives, we need to encourage each other in living the life that God calls us into.**

**The scriptures this week are difficult. If you got lost in the reading of those texts, I would not be surprised - I certainly did. Daniel talks about a time that is coming. It is intended to be a word of hope and promise for a people that is suffering in exile. A time is coming, Daniel says, when things will be better. The images he uses point us to a day of resurrection and judgement that we believe will be coming - for believers it is understood as a day of great joy and celebration in a resurrection to life eternal. It is coming - will we have time to get ready for its coming?**

**In the second lesson we are reminded that Christ offered Himself once in total sacrifice for us. We are told that along with His sacrifice, Christ has made a covenant / a promise with us - a promise signed in His blood, - a promise of forgiveness and acceptance. And we are invited to come into the presence of this God of love confidently, with full assurance of His love. We are invited to come - - - but will we?**

**Jesus points to the massive stones that form the walls of the temple and talks about how easy it might be to think that the temple will stand forever. We so easily believe that the life that we know will remain the same forever. But Jesus tells His disciples that what they might believe is not true. The stones of the temple will be torn down - what we know will no longer exist - life will change. So what to read the text and talk about the signs of the coming of the end times as though we might be able to watch for the signs and then we might be able to wait to get ready when we see the right signs. But Jesus isn't interested in signs and predictions of timing for such things - he simply tells His followers that 'the day' is coming - beware - prepare - it is coming. But will we be ready for its coming?**

**There is so much coming up this time of the year. Thanksgiving is coming. And then the Christmas rush [of course, we in the church would like to stick Advent in there somewhere]. I am sure that if you were to fill in your individual activities - the projects you have going - the plans you have made - the days ahead would be pretty full. It is all coming. How can we get ready for it all?**

**. A California scientist has computed that the average human being eats 16 times his or her own weight in an average year, while a horse eats only eight times its weight. This all seems to prove that if you want to lose weight, you should eat like a horse.**

Have a nice Thanksgiving!

AMEN