

First Sunday of Advent 2022
Consistency & Expectancy
Matthew 24

We follow...

- **With** _____.

- **With** _____.

Even so, Lord Jesus come!

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Message Application:

No mall would ever add any apocalyptic music to its holiday repertoire over the loudspeakers. No Hallmark Christmas card would feature awesome (and perhaps fearsome) images of judgment day. And in truth neither do many churches spend much time on the kind of imagery Jesus uses in Matthew 24.

At Christmas of all times, how can we look at all that's going on and not long for the second Advent of Jesus? If Christ is coming again, then and only then does his first Advent mean anything. In fact, then and only then Christ's first arrival means everything.

This week we start the Advent season. It is traditional to look at both Advents on the first week. We light the First Advent candle remembering Jesus' 1st coming. Prophets throughout Israel's history predicted this first coming. The nation Israel, however, was not anticipating Jesus' coming. We who look back at the First Advent should not condemn the shepherds, King Herod, the religious folk at the time nor the common person of the day. We should never look down on them. The reason? The reason being that we look back at the First and complete live like the second Advent will never get here!

Meditate this week on how you will live in the expectancy of Christ's return. The Christ-follower should be not only living in expectation, but we should be consistently living out how Christ commanded us to live.

Ask yourself:

Am I proclaiming the Good News to a world that lives for the bad news?

Am I cultivating the Holy Spirit's fruit in my life? (See Galatians 5)

Am I ready to meet my Lord Jesus when he does take me by surprise?

I pray that you my friend are saying every day, "Even so Lord Jesus come!"

Grace & Peace,

Wm. Lyons