

“However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen, not even the angels in heaven or the Son himself. Only the Father knows. And since you don’t know when that time will come, be on guard! Stay alert!” Mark 13:32-33 NLT

## lectio // Mark 13:32-37

I’ve said this dozens of times, “God’s stories are VERY long!” But, just because they are long, does not mean they don’t have an end in mind. This story, the parousia or coming is one of those very long stories. And just because it’s been over 2000 years since Jesus said these words, does not make it any less true or urgent. And I believe our hope is different than it was for those experiencing a martyr’s death and expecting a rescue as much as they were a finality to God’s big story. Our hope is a final fulfillment of justice and setting all things right in our world. We have seen a couple of millennia watching men play out their cruel, selfish desires through atrocities, wars and domination. This is humans at our best? We ache for a cleaner, healthier planet, wishing that humanity will rise to be better and be more kind. Humanity without God’s spirit will not become better, it will lie to itself and pretend that it can save itself and heal the brokenness and selfishness of our souls. That’s the damnable lie of religion is to believe that self improvement is a path to perfection! I like watching for Jesus’ return, but I also want him to find me busy. In 19:13 Luke writes “occupy until I come”. It’s not a thumb-twiddling-time, it’s a time to work “while it’s still day” kind of waiting!

## oratio

Dad,  
I feel so out of sync with Jesus’ return because, for me, it’s not about a “get-me-outta here” kind of hope. It’s more of a longing for completion. It’s the culmination to such a beautifully complicated story that I’m excited about. I don’t yearn for people to receive judgment or their payment for sin that they clearly have had multiple chances to see and submit to your grace. I don’t even ache for horribly, corrupt and full-of-evil humans to finally be confronted by the results of their calloused and flippant acts of cruelty. I just want to see an end to our hunger for sin and rebelliousness. I want to see a unified peace in our souls that only comes by submitting to you. I wait for completion with a huge, “the end” sign in that moment and a new one that says, “in the new beginning...”

## contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root