

Fr. Romeo Evangelista Homily  
Sunday, November 10, 2024  
33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Cycle B

A few years back, I remember I was getting a haircut when I was in the Philippines. And in the barber shop you can have a lot of topics for conversation. My barber and I happened to talk about the end of times. We talked about the wars and calamities in the world. He told me that he was a former Seventh-day Adventist and was taught that these occurrences are portents of a serious cataclysm- the end of the world. He mentioned his fear that the end is near. He asked me for advice on what to do. I told him just continue cutting hair. I believed later how fearful he was, for when I was at home, I saw in the mirror that his trembling hands made my right sideburn longer than the left.

So, what will you do if the world will end in an hour?

Jesus is reminding us that being good is not only at a certain time. Christianity is a 24/7, a full-time activity. We must not be concerned about the day and hour. If we are prepared, the end times can come any time and we will be happy to welcome it. That is how a Christian should understand the end times, for the end times is actually the entry to eternal time with God.

So why should we be afraid? We are afraid because we forget that the one who will come is the one who loves us more than any other person has ever done in history. He is not a destroyer, but the Redeemer. He is not a

punisher, but the Forgiver of sins. He is not the enemy of our existence. Jesus is the Great Lover. Don't lovers return again and again to manifest their love? Isn't that what lovers do? Isn't that what true friends do? They return to show us that we are not forgotten. They return to build us up and make us strong. How much more with Jesus, burning with love for all!

That is the first thing we must realize when we read the Word of God. It is not a prophecy for doom. It is an encouragement to prepare for the one who loves the most. When we recall Jesus 's return every year, remember that he is inviting each of us to prepare our hearts. For when our lovers return, should we not also be excited to be found the best for him?

As to the exact date or exact signs, Jesus assures us that neither the angels in heaven know. To speculate is to waste our time and energy. God's calendar and his timetable are different from ours. Even these operate through love. Jesus is coming. Be prepared. Be not afraid. For He will come to embrace us again.