



SERMON OUTLINE FOR DECEMBER 21, 2014

Ready or Not . . . Here He Comes!

Mark 13:33-37

INTRODUCTION: *The children's hide & seek game: "Ready or not... here I come!"*

I. READY OR NOT . . . JESUS IS COMING

- A. The early church lived on "tiptoes" (Mark 13:33)
- B. We at times live on tiptoe anticipating the future

II. IS JESUS COMING?

- A. At times in our lives, we wonder
- B. The early church also wondered (Mark 13:33-35)

III. JESUS HAS COME

- A. Jesus said – at evening, at late night, at cockcrow, at dawn
(Mark 13 & 14 & 15)
- B. Everything uncertain in our lives is anchored in the certainty of the cross
+ so says many hymn verses:
 - Never shall the cross forsake me* (LSB 427)
 - Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to Thy cross I cling* (LSB 761)
 - In the cross of Christ I glory* (LSB 427)
- C. In the face of all that comes against us, there are God's promises in the Cross (Jeremiah 29:11)

II. READY OR NOT . . . HERE COMES JESUS

- A. Every moment is alive with the promise of God's future & Jesus' return (Mark 13:37)
- B. In the Church, like nowhere else, we realize: something is about to happen
+ the Creed, Baptism, Communion, the speaking of forgiveness

CONCLUSION: The final prayer in the Bible:

Come, Lord Jesus, come (Revelation 22:20)