

## Chapter

# 2

### *The Master is Coming Back*



It's amazing what you can learn about God from a dog.

My parents own an adorable miniature schnauzer named Pepper. She's a part of the family in every way - so much in fact that there have been times when my Dad has mixed up her first name with mine. "Pepper, would you please go get me the drill from the garage?" After a brief re-introduction as his firstborn child I usually go and get Dad what he needs. Pepper just sits there and looks puzzled. Go figure.

A few years ago my parents went on a Caribbean cruise. During their trip they were forced to leave their beloved Pepper behind. Rather than put her in a kennel for two weeks I volunteered to dog-sit while they were gone. Mom and Dad came to my place for a short visit before leaving for their cruise and on the day of their departure they bid both me and the dog goodbye. I will never forget the moment when Pepper realized she was not going with them. She was visibly devastated. Her normally chipper behavior had gone by the wayside. She stared at the door for the longest time, looking back at me occasionally with her sad dark brown eyes as if to say "Please, can I go too?"

After the longest time she finally gave up her vigil at the front door and begrudgingly took her morning nap.

For the next two weeks I noticed a specific behavior begin to emerge from that little dog. I would leave for work in the morning and when I would return home, she would be staring out the living room window watching my car pull into the driveway. She began to take many of her naps by the front door, making me wonder if it was so she wouldn't miss Mom and Dad's return. I would be reading or watching television in the evening and she would still be looking out that living room window, as if she were wondering if this was the day her masters were finally coming back to get her.

Those two weeks watching Pepper made me think about a day that is coming for you and me. There is a day that is coming, sooner rather than later, when Jesus Christ will return for His bride. We don't know when that day will be but you and I have the promise of His return as His grace-gift to us. As I watched Pepper wait so patiently for her masters to return I had to wonder how the disciples felt when Jesus left this earth. In Acts 1:9, Jesus "was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight." The disciples are left there to stare up into the sky and wonder what's next besides heading back to Jerusalem for some kind of heavenly waiting game. I wouldn't know what to do or how to feel myself, but the disciples received some much needed encouragement in that area. Two men in white clothes appeared to the disciples, saying, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven." (Acts 1:11)

Imagine the comfort that word would have brought the disciples! Imagine, too, how that encouragement would fire up the early church! It all makes me wonder how I've been feeling about Jesus Christ's promised comeback. Was I waiting for Him in longing and anticipation? Was I living each day in the light of that promise, doing as Jesus taught in Mark 13:33 to "take heed, and watch and pray?" It's easy to get caught up in the day to day grind of things and take your focus off of the eternal. It's easy to lose sight of the promise that is set before us, the promise of that glorious day when the sound of trumpets will

signal the return of the King of Kings. Sometimes I think I need to have a dog around the house. Not just for companionship, but also to remind me to be watching and waiting for my Master's return. That promise means everything to me.

It was the Father's desire to show us His great grace by sending His Son to die on a cross for us. It is by grace that we are saved and given the gift of eternal life. And it is the gift of grace that gives us the assurance that our Master is coming back one day, someday soon.



## *Coda*

Read John 14:1-3.

What meaning does the promise of Jesus' return hold for you?

What are you looking forward to when He returns?

Have you ever found yourself doubting that a promised event or moment would come? What did you do about it?