

In today's reading, Jesus seems to make it pretty clear: NO ONE - not your mother, not the Pope, not Hal Lindsey and certainly not the smug evangelical know-it-alls ... no one but the Father knows when the second coming will be.

Yet today, you can walk into any religious book store and find rows of books written by very religious men and women that will tell us exactly when the second coming is going to be.

How odd.

Guess they're too busy creating charts and figuring out complex math calculations to be bothered with Matthew 24:36, right?

Call me crazy but I read these eight verses several times and came away with two very strong messages that Jesus is trying to make. 1) ONLY God knows when the second coming is going to happen. 2) Be prepared every day and don't worry about tomorrow.

But I think there is a bigger issue here that Jesus is looking at.

You may think that all these books that claim to know what ONLY God knows would be a bit harmless. But the issue is about distractions. How many people waste a lot of time reading books and going to big gatherings talking about the future, when they could be using that time to simply be in the moment of life and promoting God's LOVE?

I think that's the point Jesus is making here. Stop worrying about things that you have no control over and learn to embrace each moment of every day. We each control the moment we are in and Jesus is telling us to stop wasting these moments trying to figure out the future that you have no control of, when you could be spending that moment loving God, loving your neighbor, loving yourself and loving the wonderful life that God has blessed you with.

If you watch those nature shows long enough, you will notice two things that are very consistent in the wonderful wild world of animals.

First, regardless of what creature they are featuring, there is one common truth. The only way you will know which animal is older than the other is if the guy with the Australian accent points to one and says so. The other animals in our world don't have gray hair. There's no wrinkles, balding, arthritis, glasses or horrible taste in fashion. Just two animals, one an old man, the other

a young stud, yet you almost always need to be told which is which.

The second glaring thing that is so obvious is this: Regardless of what creature they are featuring, you will not see one – not one Buffalo, Deer, Snake, Cow, Horse or creepy crawler – no, not one of God’s creatures wearing a wristwatch.

It’s true! Now before you head out to the TV to turn on the Discovery Channel to see if I’m right, let me make my point for this discussion.

Of all the wonderful creatures God created, we are the only one who worries about time. We are the only creatures who put a great value on clocks, watches and calendars. We are the only creatures who become so pre-occupied with looking and planning for tomorrow instead of living for today. And I might say, we are the only creature that the guy with the Australian accent would not have to bother pointing out the old man.

Coincidence? I don’t think so. I think Jesus made it very clear here – as well as several other occasions in the Bible – that we should not get hung up worrying about the future. We can do nothing about the past, nor do we control the future. We only have the moment to moment life to work with. How sad it is that so many of us use this time to worry about time that we have no control of.

I’m not sure if you threw away your watch you could prevent gray hair, but it sure wouldn’t hurt.

Okay, now you can go turn on the Animal Channel and see if you can find an animal with a wristwatch on. If you see one, it probably is the one with grey hair.