

I wonder if you would like to be able to predict the future? Have you ever wished you could predict what's in store for you personally, for your family, for someone you love or even for the world? There are many people who try to predict the future in a variety of ways, and some take the practice more seriously than others, for example: some people open a fortune cookie at the end of a Chinese meal, smile, chuckle, read it out to those at their table and then forget about it. While there are others who tape them these fortunes to their desks or put them on the fridge and genuinely hope they will come true. Some people visit fortune tellers in an effort to find out what will happen to them and are either excited by the possibilities or terrified by the predictions they hear.

Some people would argue that if we knew what the future held, we could actively work towards helping the positive parts come true and find ways to avoid the negative. But others would say that if we knew what was going to happen – particularly the bad parts of life – then we would never find the strength to get up in the morning.

In this bible passage, Jesus tells us that no one knows the day or the hour when certain significant events will overtake us and change our lives. So somehow, we need to live our lives in the expectation that shocking and likely difficult things will happen to us, but also to avoid trying to predict them because there is no possible way to prevent them. That's difficult advice because it seems to go against basic human nature – we WANT to know...but we're not going to...so how do you deal with uncertainty?

God our Father, when we are uncertain and worried about the future, help us to rest in you and your plan for us. Help us to trust you with what will happen next. Amen.

Matthew 24:37-44

As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.

‘Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.