

I just finished completing and addressing invitations for my future daughter-in-law's bridal shower. My son, my 'baby' is going to be a married man two months from now, God willing. This is one of the times in our lives that we can't help but reflect, isn't it? Not only have I been thinking back to when my kids were younger, but I can't help but think about what the future holds. Thinking and pondering aren't the same as worrying. I'm not worried about the future, but I am feeling a bit apprehensive about it.

My faith is so sure that I know our Lord is returning soon. The signs are all around us, even slapping us in the face at times. Not a day goes by that I don't say to myself, "Lord, come quickly." I am so ready for his return, but I am also ready to wait and make the best of the time I have remaining. There's the rub. Because I'm so sure of Christ's return, I don't know if I should make big decisions.

I'm trying to plan for my retirement. I have been working since I was thirteen years old, so when I say I'm going to retire at sixty-seven, I am retiring at sixty-seven. Whatever that will require, I'm not completely sure. But God promises to care for us, and I believe him with all that I am. The boys have five and seven years left of school, and I want to make those years count for them. I have decided I will let them remain in the same schools so that leaves me with our home. Do I continue to pay rent, at the risk of it being raised at the whim of the rental agency, or do I dive into buying a home?

I was seriously thinking about buying a house, even got prequalified to do it. But then I decided I didn't want to wipe out my savings toward a down payment and closing costs. I was content with my decision, thinking I was better off staying where I am. Then I started taking notice and listening to warnings popping up on social media. I know, a mistake out of the gate. But recently I heard about the possibility of an imminent attack on our own soil, one that would likely take out our power, internet, and banking. This is not just a conspiracy theory by the lunatic fringe. I keep hearing about the possibilities from notable sources, and my friends, it is absolutely possible.

From the war on Israel right now, to the joining of Russia and China's armies, this is getting real. What better way to cripple everyone in the world, but to take out the ability to buy, sell, or communicate? As the world watches the lunacy taking place in our nation's capital, it's no wonder that we have become a laughingstock, and frankly, we have made ourselves extremely vulnerable to potential threats. As an American, I do not feel safe anymore.

I am not a survivalist, in that I am stockpiling years of supplies, but I am being proactive in purchasing some of the things that may be necessary should this potential attack become a reality. If it were just me, I don't think I would be as concerned, but I have two little boys to care for. They are my first responsibility. I made the decision to remain content and stay where we live now, building up a few supplies, taking each day as it comes.

My question about whether or not I'm crazy started yesterday. The houses I had been looking at previously dropped in price significantly, making me wonder again if I shouldn't pursue buying a house instead of renting. But my mind is still stuck on the potential threats in our world...and this is what my mind has been doing:

"Surely it wouldn't be wise to purchase a home now. Especially a new house that isn't built. We may not even be here in 3 months. But if we stay here in a rental property, they could throw us out at any time. In our own home, we can better defend our rights. Oh yeah, our rights are gone now anyway. But again, I want to retire at sixty-seven, and if I'm still renting, they could raise my rent beyond affordability. At least in my own home, I have a say in the mortgage payments, and after the boys move out, I could rent out a room or two to supplement my income. That's if Jesus doesn't come back before I retire, and then I don't have to worry about it anyway. Oh, I do wish Jesus would come soon. But I still have family and friends who don't know him yet. But Jesus, I'm ready, whenever you are. So, Lord? Should I buy a home or not?"

My thoughts are crazy, aren't they?

But we are in a crazy world right now. A crazy place in history. I still don't know the answers to my many questions. I do know that none of us are promised tomorrow. I know that death is inevitable. But I also know our lives are a gift, not to be squandered or taken lightly. Our Lord wants us to cherish each moment we are given. He commands us to go into all the world, sharing his gospel with everyone until he returns. My greatest prayer is that when he does return, I will be found faithful in what he has instructed, with no fear.

Jesus alone is our hope for this world.

Blessings,

Lisa Jo

*"Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

*(Matthew 28:18-20 NIV)*