

First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2017

When I was little child I found waiting to be a very difficult thing to do. My grandma often used to say to me, “keep your britches on young man”. (Yes, I know I said britches!) This meant to be patient, vigilant, alert and ready whenever my anticipation was getting the best of me. These could simply be her sweet tasting cookies or mouth-watering doughnuts. But sometimes it could be for much greater things to come, much like our gospel today. Jesus is telling his disciples and us today, be ready for the Lord to come, whether evening, midnight or morning. We will not know when the time will come, but rest assured it will be in His great glory.

Advent begins with this call to vigilance as reflected in today’s gospel passage. We have been hearing many scripture passages that call us to vigilance and anticipation of the Lord’s coming. Being vigilant means also, that we are prepared, not caught off guard. Imagine if Christmas morning came and you woke up suddenly realizing you forgot to prepare! Imagine there were no gifts, no food purchased and no plans made. For those who may be poor this is all too much a reality, but for most of us this would not be allowed to happen. But do we allow this to happen spiritually speaking? We often find in the rush of the season that we are not prepared to celebrate the birth of Christ in our hearts.

This first week of Advent also calls us to focus on the Second Coming of Christ. Jesus will return again to judge the living and the dead; we even profess that fact every Sunday in our Creed. Even though Advent is a time for preparation of the celebration of the first coming of Jesus in the flesh, it is also a time to acknowledge that His first coming is ultimately fulfilled in his final glorious coming.

As Advent begins, let us reflect on how ready we are for Jesus’ coming. Are we preparing for it with the same fervor as we do for Christmas through shopping, cooking, decorating and such? Are we preparing our hearts for the spiritual celebration of His birth? Are we awake and attentive to the numerous ways that God speaks to us on a daily basis?

If we are not as prepared for His return in glory as we would like to be, maybe we should commit more time to prayer and reflection and allow the potter to mold our hearts of clay. And of course, always be vigilant, stay awake watching and “keep your britches on” in waiting patiently for what is to come.

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