

Beware, keep alert
Mark 13.33-37
1st Sunday of Advent
November 28-29, 2020
Deacon Victor Mesta

Dear brothers and sisters, our life may change very quickly from one moment to the next. It might change in seconds.

The only way to minimize the impact is to be prepared. So preparation is the secret of success - not only in earthly activities, but more importantly in our spiritual life.

Jesus tells us today, keep awake because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back - whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. We don't know when he will come back.

Chapter 13 of Mark's Gospel is known as the apocalyptic or eschatological discourse of Jesus and he gave this discourse to his disciples as his journey to the cross was about to begin.

Jesus invited his disciples to stay awake and also invites us to do the same, and the question is: "Are we 'Staying Awake' or Are we falling asleep? "

If we are awake, we are able to be aware about our own lives and ready to accept our own weaknesses and struggles.

When we are not awake we are easily distracted by so many things: by our own pleasures, by our own laziness, by our own jealousies, by our own pride and selfishness.

Jesus invites us to be awake because he wants our salvation. Perhaps we don't like what he is telling us but he doesn't want us to fall asleep.

To maintain this waking state it is necessary to strive, because the tendency of every one of us is to live with our eyes fixed on earthly things.

We will be able to stay awake if we carefully take care of our personal prayer, which enable us to avoid becoming too comfortable. We will be awake if we do not neglect the little mortifications, which keep us awake for the things of God. We will be awake if we go through a delicate examination of conscience, which makes us see at which points we are diverging, almost without realizing it, from our proper path.

Brothers and sisters, we need to purify our hearts and to be constant and persevering in our spiritual growth. Our hearts need urgent attention, not to procrastinate before it is too late.

Today is the first day of advent, and this particular week symbolizes “Hope”, this is what our Lord Jesus brought into this world.

So this season invites us to prepare our hearts because we will celebrate together the birthday of our Lord. So let’s remove from our hearts all resentment, selfishness, pride, or envy to make room in our hearts for our Lord. We have a merciful father who even knowing our daily falls he is there always with his arms open to receive us.

Thanks to God we have the Holy sacrament of reconciliation to unburden our faults.

Brothers and Sisters, every act of kindness and love and every act of self-sacrifice for another is a small step in welcoming Jesus into our midst.

Let’s “be alert and stay awake” to welcome Jesus in our hearts and homes! ... Amen