

Taking Our Hearts to the Lord

Scripture Sharing Group Resource, Advent 2014, Week 1

Reader 1: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark (Mk 13:33-37)

Stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Silence

Leader: Let us read the Gospel passage aloud together.

Everyone: A Reading from the Holy Gospel

Silence

Leader: Let us listen to a short reflection on this Gospel passage.

Reader 2: Reflection on the Gospel

How do you feel about this time of year? As the world around us prolongs its celebration of Halloween and the supermarkets advertise for Christmas, the message of this Gospel is sharp. Be watchful! Be alert! When I was a seminarian an eminent theologian once told us that we are living in the "tension between the already and the not yet". I associate his words with Advent. In a world where the prevailing mood is "I want it all, and I want it now!" Advent demands work. In fact we fly in the face of the world around us by even talking about the waiting mood of the Advent season.

Perhaps this will be the year when we shall speak out loudly about the spirit of waiting and its importance in any preparation. During the weeks ahead we wait for our celebration of the Incarnation - an event which brings us light and hope in a confused world. Jesus comes from the Father to gather us together in the Holy Spirit and to bring us safely to Heaven.

This Advent let us challenge the headlong rush that would have us gallop from year to year. In our minds and hearts let us foster a spirit of watchfulness, an alertness that waits in reverence for the Word made Flesh.

Silence

Leader: I invite you to share any thought or consideration prompted by the Gospel passage and /or the reflection.

Sharing

Leader: Let us return to our Advent Prayer.

Group returns to page 20 of Advent booklet