

First Sunday November 29, 2020

Focus Question: *What are you waiting for this Advent season?*

Examine Mark 13: 24-27

Chapter 13 in Mark is known as the “Little Apocalypse” - a miniature revelation of the second coming of the Christ. These words proclaim the promise of God’s deliverance to an infant church undergoing persecution. The reality of suffering will not last forever. The present hurt is endured in the promise of a future hope.

1. *What images come to mind when you think of the Second Coming of Christ?*
2. *How are these images troubling? Comforting?*

Examine Mark 13: 28-31

We are called to pay attention, to look for signs of God’s presence in our ordinary lives and environment.

What makes it so difficult for us to see the small things?

Examine Mark 13: 32-37

What attitudes of a faithful disciple does Jesus emphasize with the parable about a man going on a journey? We are to be vigilant: “keep alert”, “be on the watch”, and “keep awake”. And we are to be hopeful – the master “will return”!

What does it mean for you to be vigilant and hopeful?

Advent is a time for us to prepare and anticipate. For some this means excitement, for others it means a deep loneliness, missing loved ones, and a reality very different from the happy Christmas of movies and advertisements.

How can we support others who find Advent and Christmas to be lonely?

Our “Advent attitude” as disciples of Jesus is one of *hopeful waiting*. These words of promise are from a God we know to be true to God’s word – a word which becomes flesh and dwells among us.

How might waiting become a gift for you?

Prayer

Come, Lord Jesus! Grant us patience and vigilance in our waiting. Amen

Last word:

This week, be aware of times when you wait. Pray for patience and hope.