

The message for November 29 2020

Psalm 130:5 says “I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits and, in his word, I put my hope”. This line calls us to wait for the Lord. This is a huge challenge for most of us. You see, we live in an age where we do not have to leave our homes for food, entertainment or connecting with others. We all have food apps, entertainment apps and apps that allow us to see and talk to family and friends all over the world on the screen of our phones and all of this can happen without us getting off of our couches. Information of all kinds is at our fingertips. We just have to type or speak to our phones and we get our answer. We’ve become accustomed to immediate gratification. We get impatient with slow and choppy internet connections. As a result, we can get bored or distracted very easily. For us to wait can be a hard thing. In fact, many people are struggling with Covid fatigue because we have all been asked to hold back from many of the things we normally do. Sitting around the house, keeping our distances from family and friends, waiting for the day when we can get back together and back to the normal routines, has pushed many people to take unnecessary chances in their lives. Waiting, is just not in many of our genes.

With this in mind our gospel reading for today will challenge us. Our reading today comes from Mark 13:32-37 and it goes like this; *“about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.*

<sup>33</sup> *Beware, keep alert; [\[b\]](#) for you do not know when the time will come.* <sup>34</sup> *It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.* <sup>35</sup> *Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn,* <sup>36</sup> *or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly.* <sup>37</sup> *And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”*

This scripture calls us to wait, but we do not like to wait. Maybe that is why so many people are moving away from their faith and the church. Maybe that is why so many people have not been following the guidelines set out to keep all people safe. Maybe that is why so many people want to get back to the distractions of life that give short-lived but instant gratification. Sadly, as a result, many people are challenged to spend time investing in their faith, the coming of Christ, the

sharing of God's love with one another. Waiting for God just does not bring the instant results that many people want.

That is why so many people are failing to embrace what Christmas is truly all about – “the coming of Christ”. They fail to see the hope that one day the darkness that we are all feeling during these strange times will one day be lifted. Christmas should be our reminder that waiting in hope for the Lord is what is needed, especially when we feel the world seems so dark.

When the sun goes down and it gets dark outside, we turn on our lights. We believe that light helps us see better. However, sometimes we need the darkness in order to better see the light. Let me explain. When it comes to seeing the night sky, light from the cities are actually pollution for the stars. We see more of the stars in the country where there is less light to pollute the sky. Hope works the same way. Only when we face the true darkness in our world and in our own hearts can we see the light of hope clearly. Jesus was born into a dark world full of fear. That same feeling of fear is present in today's world because of the pandemic. What we need to realize is that our hope lies in the fact that God showed up unexpectedly in the midst of the darkest night. God shone light into the world through a baby and God invites us into that light.

This is where our challenge begins as we enter into the season of Advent during a year that many just want to move on from. Seeing the light of God, who comes to us as the Christ child, requires us to wait with patience and to clear out that which pollutes our way to seeing the light; the light of Christ. This will help us refocus on our faith and our love for God and God's love for us.

By clearing out the distractions and pollutants that have bogged us down for years can open us up to the light of Christ. The light will guide us to what is important in life. Simply put “LOVE, JOY, PEACE”. These things do not come in packages or boxes or materials things. They come in the form of the people in our lives. The family and the friends and the people in our faith communities. They come from knowing that Christ went to the cross for all of us.

Remember PEACE, JOY, and LOVE are worth waiting for, that is our HOPE!

God Bless  
Paul