

Be watchful!

I Sunday Advent

Homily, 29th October 2020

Mark 13,33-37

father G. Paparone o.p.

«Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: “Watch!”».

My dearest, today is the first Sunday of the Advent time, the Gospel by Mark helps us to prepare for Christmas through the following invitation: *be watchful!*

The key word of this beautiful piece is: **keep watch.**

Keep watch while waiting for Jesus to come back and bring his friends, his beloved ones, his disciples into his Father’s kingdom.

The *Word of God* invites us, as well as last Sunday, to interpret our existence as a journey, an expectation, a contingent and uncertain dimension.

Our life unfolds through a time: there is a beginning and there is an end.
But this time we have to live is not in our hands, it belongs to God.

The Christian lifetime is a positive and profitable one, it needs to be a time of spiritual work, while expecting to meet the Saviour.

The piece we have read is very short and skinny; the strong invitation “be watchful” sensitizes those who live in the time not to fall asleep, as Saint Mark says: *...because you are not found sleeping*: that is, not operating, not efficient.

We know that this tale is a metaphor, the Gospel itself declares it: *it is like one who left...*

Jesus is dead and risen again, he left his disciples alone and invites them not to be involved in the world’s events in an exclusive way, that is to say, not to fall asleep which means not to be suck up by the engagements, the duties and facts of the world. And even by the apparent delay of the Lord’s return.

The Christian’s life must be a life of awaken people, people who have an authentic relationship with the existence, people who know that their lives will be completely accomplished only when they will meet Jesus resurrected.

The time which is given us to live must be lived as a fruitful and positive period, **as an opportunity to grow in the communion with God.**

The piece of the first reading, which is taken by the book of the prophet Isaiah, ends with these words: *Lord, you are our father, we are clay and you are the potter, we are all the work of your hands.*

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Let us be modelled by the hands of God, then, let us live this time with a watchful attitude and be willing to be transformed.

Let us live not in the exclusive search of our worldly realization and satisfaction, but **trying to fulfill our virtues and our heart** and let God model and transform it, so as to be ready to enter into the blessed kingdom.

May the Lord give us the capacity to remember that we live in a contingent time, that this time is uncertain and that the most important thing for us is to meet Him and be found by Him ready, industrious, generous.

May the Lord give you all this!

Bless to you, Lord Jesus Christ