

1st Sunday in Advent Year A

If your Business plan was similar to your spiritual plan would your business be bankrupt?

Think of how we are pursuing God right now. If we pursued other relationships like we pursued God would they be very satisfying. Can you imagine a business plan that said I will sit around and attend a conference once a week for an hour I will invest as little as I can into this project. What would you said to this individual? I am thinking you will surely fail friend and business is hard work and dedication. Maybe you have heard the phrase a failure to plan in a plan to fail.

If we were to look back from last year this time to today how would we describe our relationship with God. Did anything improve did our knowledge our love what has changed over the past year. Now you might say that well that is hard to tell what had changed. If we have no idea what has changed then probably nothing has changed or it has gotten worse. Our Spiritual life has to be the most important thing that you should be improving because it is the only thing that will last forever for better or worse. This is the time to wake up and ask these questions what am I doing what virtues have I acquired. How has my prayer become deeper? Who have I shared the faith with? Our relationship with God is our most serious duty and the most exciting part of our life. So we are blessed to once again have this season to wake up and hear the Lord once again. Holy Mother Church gives us this season to prepare for the end and get excited about the things that God want to do in your life.

It is interesting that we See Jesus talking about if the owner of the house had known what hour the house would have been broken into they would have stayed awake. This seem like an impossibility for one to stay awake for such an occasion. If you have ever had things stolen from you, you are aware of this. I have had many things stolen from me and they always caught me at un expected times. Sometimes in broad daylight sometime at night sometimes by stealth sometimes by deception. After someone has stolen something from you, you are definitely more vigilant and perhaps if you are like me angry but I find you can not be vigilant enough to prevent it from happening again. However from an earthly point of view it has not ever been my earthly vigilance that has saved me or had the stuff returned it was my relationship with God my vigilance with God so to speak. When my computer was stolen out of my house it was my trust in God that returned it and gave me the grace to forgive the thief. When my bike and tools were stolen God inspired others to be kind to me and I received greater things than were stolen from me.

The truth of the matter there is always someone catching us at bad times un aware times the thief Satan and he through his collaborators sometimes ourselves is always trying to break in to catch us unaware. Much our lives he is already in and need to be driven out. One way we know he is in if we don't care about salvation in our lives. if we are comfortable is the state of mortal sin. If our wounds lead us to make more of our decision if we are reactive instead of active people. These are signs that the thief is in and hold a place to wreak our lives. If we hold teaching that are contrary to the faith another sign of the thief in and is living well. This advent let us wake out cast out the thief rediscover our faith again. If there is a wound that makes you reactive bring it to Christ. Take some time and learn how to pray better. If there is a Church teaching that you are not following take time to study it and pray to understand what God has commanded this teaching. That is what it means to be awake. One of the most effect way to beat a thief is to block the way they enter. The most common way the devil enters is through sin and the wounds caused by sin. Confess those sins forgive through the grace of God those who hurt you and ask

God to heal the damage. This is real vigilance is to know that God can fix or restore whatever the thief has taken and give you something better as I have found out.

I remember one day I realized that I really hated someone I was so hurt by the way I was treated and I couldn't stand to be in their presence. One day I was meditating on eternity and I thought of this person and I said Lord do I what to come before you and stay I could forgive someone when you have forgiven me so much. I realized I did not want to take that hate to heaven. I asked to be free and too love and it was glorious. Forgiveness and healing bring forth the Kingdom like no other. We must have a plan and hold fast to it through grace.

Let us waken our souls this advent for the coming of the great King. Think of what delight the little baby Jesus will bring to us if we prepare the way for Him. At Christmas we can be like the wisemen who laid real treasure at His feet. Treasure of a heart made pure by grace ready to meet our maker.