

Daily Reflections

ADVENT

The Divine Intervention

November 27, 2016

Scripture

Matthew 24:37-44

Jesus said to his disciples:

“As it was in the days of Noah,
so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

In those days before the flood,
they were eating and drinking,
marrying and giving in marriage,
up to the day that Noah entered the ark.

They did not know until the flood came and carried them all away.

So will it be also at the coming of the Son of Man.

Two men will be out in the field;
one will be taken, and one will be left.

Two women will be grinding at the mill;
one will be taken, and one will be left.

Therefore, stay awake!

For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.

Be sure of this: if the master of the house
had known the hour of night when the thief was coming,
he would have stayed awake
and not let his house be broken into.

So too, you also must be prepared,
for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."

Our Scripture Reflection

Today we begin the holy season of Advent. The word *Adventus* means "coming." We actually celebrate two comings during our worship: the first coming of the baby messiah and the final coming of our Christ King at the end of time. In today's text, our focus is on the later. We are reminded by Matthew that Our Lord will return at the end of time. When? We do not know. We do know His return will be with suddenness. We are confronted with a most important question: When He returns, will we be ready? Advent is the time to prepare, a time to direct our focus in this life to Our Lord and the good work He has assigned to us.

Food for your Journey

He came when he wasn't expected
as he always does,
though a few on the night-shift had the release early.
He came where he wasn't expected
as he always does,
though a few Magis were tipped off
...he is always one step ahead of us."

-A. N. Wilder, "Grace Confounding," in *Grace Confounding: Poems by Amos Niven Wilder*

When writer Philip Yancey locked himself in his isolated Rocky Mountain cabin in mid-winter, it was to read his Bible straight through and try to get a feel for the "big picture." When he finished, Yancey concluded that the Bible was not about moral laws or divine dictums, rather about a romance, following the story of God, the "Jilted Lover" ("God, the Jilted Lover," *Christianity Today* [16 May 1986], 76). Yancey's final, amazed reaction to the story of God's unrequited quest after humanity was "Why would the God who created all that exists subject himself to such humiliation from his creation?"

That is the question the church should pose to all its people this week as we use the Advent season to prepare to experience God's greatest act of love for us, the incarnation.

Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Pour forth Your amazing Grace upon me so that I may remain faithful to You. When You come in Your glory, may I be prepared and ready to receive You with Joy. Amen.