**Sin & Righteous Deeds**

Today is the first Sunday in Advent and the beginning of a new Liturgical Year. Advent is a time we relive the past anticipation of the people of Israel as they await the coming of our Messiah. It is a time set aside by the Church in the present for a deeper reflection of our lives so we can keep the main thing the main thing. It is time for a future full of hope so we can leave behind the darkness of the world for the Light that makes us become children of God.

Advent is a time to recommit ourselves to doing righteous deeds. It is a time we clean our house or our heart of cobwebs of sins that leads to rejection of God. It is a time to walk the narrow path that would lead us to heaven. It is a time of commemorating the coming of Word incarnate, the King, and the Son of God who would lead us so we can follow Him to His Father’s house. It is a time of deep repentance, so we can return with joy to the One who is the source of Joy.

In our first reading, we heard from Prophet Isaiah who invites all to come to the house of the Lord by obeying His commandments. The invitation is for us to walk in God’s path that leads to peace and happiness. Then, we would have a house that is similar to the promised New Jerusalem.

It will be a house on top of the highest mountain with its light shining brightly for all to see. Like Moses with the burning bush, all will be drawn to see this house on top of the highest mountain. All people would stream to take a pick as to why it is so delightful and pleasing to the heart. The delights are the word of God which are pleasing instructions to those who obey God’s word.

Can you imagine a world where everybody obeys the commandment of God! There will be peace, harmony, and joy in such a world. Sin will be defeated. There would be no more wars in this New Jerusalem. This is a world Isaiah prophesied would come starting in this world and would be fully fulfilled in eternity.

In our second reading, St. Paul preaches about sin. He tells the Romans to turn away from their sinfulness and return to God for their salvation. He told them, it was time for them to turn to sold food instead of milk. He told them that sin is the work of darkness which darkens the soul. Sin leads to darkness which can only be overcome by the great Light that shines eternally. He tells them, that this great Light is Jesus who has come to set the world on fire so we can repent and turn to God.

All that Paul says in our reading today, also applies to us. We must let the light of Christ overcome the darkness that is in us. We must turn away from desires of the flesh and embrace the light of Christ. We must turn away from lies aimed at assassinating the character of others. When will turn away from evil, it is then that we will become the children of God and be at peace with one another.

In our Gospel reading, Jesus by telling us to stay awake, tells us to turn away from sin and be ready at all times for His second coming. Those who have not returned to Him, would die a painful death like those who were killed during the terrible flood during Noah’s time. They would be the ones whose time would be up and would be taken from the field. They would be the ones who will be taken while grinding or carrying out their daily activities.

Those who follow the teachings and instructions of God, would be saved; similarly, to those who were saved in Noah’s Ark. Similarly, they will be left like the person left in the field or like those going about their daily lives. Their daily activities would be, following the teachings of Christ passed on to us through His Apostles.

Jesus also compared us to the master of the house who did not know the hour when a thief would come. He used a hyperbole to drive home His point by comparing Himself to a thief who comes at an on expected time. You see, Jesus could not be a thief because everyone and all things created belongs to Him.

Yes, God has put us in charge of our house or our bodies and our lives by giving us the freedom to choose Him or choose our own will. It is up to us to decide which way we want to go. Is it heaven, or is it hell? It we are prepared for the Son of Man, we will choose to follow Him and not our own will. This is why this season is set aside for us to reflect on our lives and do the right thing of choosing to follow Jesus. Jesus is the true light that continues to shine in His Church.

As we come to receive Jesus in the Eucharist, let us tell Jesus, we will always follow Him.