

1st Week of Advent – Year B

I read this week that – at my age – the average person has spent 3 years waiting.
Waiting in line at the bank
Waiting in line at the store
Waiting for your wife – or your husband – or your kids
Waiting, watching – are we there yet?

Gospel - The master says watch, be ready, be prepared for my return

Travelling at the time of Jesus was actually rather dangerous

Robbers

Roman Patrols

Beasts

So when the master of the house went on a journey, he told the servants to be ready
He didn't want to return and be locked out of his own house.
Someone had to be ready, even at mid-night, for His return.

But there is another interpretation early readers of Mark would have heard:

“A man going on a journey” = Jesus who had Ascended

“Put His servants in charge” = Christian community

To be ready for Jesus' return

So this was about post-Easter Church

WE ARE STILL PART OF THAT POST-EASTER CHURCH

The reading is about being ready for Jesus' return

But not JUST about being ready for the 2nd coming

I think it's also about being alert – being ready – being prepared

To see Jesus in the day to day

Do we see Jesus in our neighbors?

Do we see Jesus in the people we work with?

Do we see Jesus in our family?

Once upon a time there was a man who prayed for a beautiful butterfly

But God sent him a creepy, hairy caterpillar.

He threw it out the window and went back to prayer - complaining

God hadn't answered his prayer,

Meanwhile the caterpillar became the butterfly.

In our lives we have family, work, friends, and neighbors.

And it's not all rosy – we have problems:

They are our hairy caterpillars.

In Advent we are called to get ready – to prepare – to see Jesus in our lives –
Especially in the day to day experiences of life

The faith of Advent enables us to see Jesus in all dimensions of our life,

To see the butterfly when God gives us the hairy caterpillar

This Advent – Today – let's start Advent looking for Jesus in the most familiar places

If we look beyond the hairy caterpillar we just might find Jesus.