

1<sup>st</sup> Week of Advent – Year B

A few years ago my son traveled up from Long Island for Thanksgiving - wife, and 2 dogs.

Now, I've been dieting for the last few months

Looking forward to coming off it for the Holidays – eat whatever I want – Pumpkin Pie

We have the big dinner – time for the pie

In the kitchen, the dogs ate the pie

Gospel - Watch, Be Ready, Be Prepared

I wasn't watching the pie

I was enjoying being with my son

Priority was not the pie, but family.

To be with us my son drove 4 hours, had to take 2 ferries (with the dogs)

Travel 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 2<sup>nd</sup> coming

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

To see Jesus now, in the day to day

I wanted to kick the pie-eating dog

Liza “O you silly dog, what did you do,

That's a naughty dog, yes you are, yes you are”

Liza was a sign of forgiveness that just wasn't in me.

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, pie & *pie-eating dogs*.

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 –

***Even in pie-eating dogs***

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

To see the butterfly even when God gives us the hairy caterpillar

To see an example of love when Liza pets her dog and not kick him

Jesus is coming – at Christmas for sure – but He comes now, today, if we can see Him