

# *Advent; Waiting and Watching*



***“What I say to you, I say to all: “Watch!” Mark 13:37***

By Mary Ann Collett

Traditionally, the four-week Advent season is a time of waiting—something that we all do: As we begin, our Lord is speaking to us in the deepest depths of our souls. He is gently saying, *“Wake up” “Listen” “Wait” and “Watch”*

During this unusual Advent season, some of us find ourselves waiting for some good news, for a better job, or for our lives to improve financially, physically and from the many effects of this pandemic. Advent is a time when we think about waiting for God, so it fits in perfectly with our natural human longings. Advent is also the time of beautiful Scripture readings; these are readings to give all of us peace, hope, joy and love!

At this time of the year it can become very distracting and difficult while standing in line at a department store or the grocery store, waiting for your turn. We find ourselves antsy and we keep on looking at the time. We just don’t want to be in this line...Before long, we begin to think, “Oh, I can’t wait for this to be over!” It is clear only a few are enjoying the experience; the impatience or irritability we feel might even be visible on our faces. Such an experience of waiting in line can seem isolating, almost lonely. This can be a dreadful waiting experience!

However, now think about the opposite, waiting in line while being excited. Think about when we have waited in line to buy tickets to see our favorite play, or to hear our favorite band. In these instances, the waiting is much different. People are excited and we might even be talking to some of them about the play that we love and are about to see, or the band we’re about to hear.

***“This second example is the kind of waiting we are called to during Advent”.***

I don't know about you...but life seems to be so different this year. I know it has caused me to cut back on the craziness of some Christmas preparations. Does that sound selfish? It's just the opposite! It can give us time to spend with those we really love, and more time to spend in prayer. Maybe Advent this year is when we can really settle into our spiritual life, by finding joy in the season and less stress in Christmas.

Advent may be the time that we've been waiting for! This waiting is far from empty; rather, it is full of the hope that God promises us as we prepare for Christ's coming to us as a Child at Christmas. It is the coming of Christ into our lives in new ways, and to looking forward to the return of Christ in glory when He returns.

So, we can reflect, today, upon the fact that God is speaking within the depths of our soul each and every day. He is speaking to us now. And what He says is all that really matters in life. Advent is a time, more than anytime to renew our commitment to listen, to be attentive and to respond. Do not remain asleep. **Wake up** and be attentive to the profound voice of our Lord.

***Come, Lord Jesus! Come!***



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