



Advent Reflection for Tuesday, November 30

Keisha Lightbourne

You can listen to the reading and reflection by clicking [here](#).

Mark 13.33-37

Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

Keep alert! Keep awake! Mark is reminding us not to fall asleep on the job of watching and waiting for Christ’s return. It may happen at any moment. During Lent we have “Watch Night” and we literally act out this passage. But what does this passage mean during Advent?

There’s a phrase used in society today that echoes the sentiment of this passage so well: Stay woke! If you have not heard of it, it’s a bit of slang that means stay alert or awake to the racial discrimination and injustices in our society. Originating in the African-American community, you hear it said all too frequently these days as a reminder to not fall asleep on the job of social justice for all. It is also a reminder that these injustices are often hidden and that despite how far we’ve come, there’s still a long way to go.

So how do we stay awake and alert? How do we prepare for Christ’s return? I can’t think of a better example than that of God sending his only son to us in human form to be a perfect sacrifice for the world. What love! to give your only son so that the whole of your creation may be saved. He sends his son to rewrite the commandments to add two that are all about love: love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your mind and all your soul AND love your neighbors as yourselves. God teaches us to lead with love.

Lead with love for others. When we lead with love, in all things, we see so clearly the injustices and prejudices of this world. When we lead with love, we can create the change that is so needed in this world. When we sow the seeds of love in this world, we remind ourselves and the world of God’s love. Because it is in the giving and receiving of God’s love that people’s lives are transformed. Your love, as an extension of God’s, can transform people’s lives. It can remind them that they matter and it reminds us that the love we give matters.

So much preparation goes into this season, shopping, decorating, wrapping and cooking. How about we prepare our souls too by sowing the seeds of God's love in our world. Here are some thoughts I had on how you can sow some seeds of love. Restocking the purple pantry with stickers on your cans that say, "God Loves You and So do I." Giving a coat to warm another soul with a message of God's love in the pocket. Leaving a few cans of food on the bus or at the bus stop for people too shy to go to a purple pantry. Make twice as much one meal and share with a neighbor. Attend a protest and make friends with a fellow protestor. When we do these things, we prepare ourselves and others for Christ's return. Not just during this season but all year long.

Stay woke, my friends and sow the seeds of love.

Keisha has been attending Holy Apostles since 2017. She is the mother of a happy 5 year-old and enjoys knitting any time she gets the chance.

