

The Vision of John the Baptist

There is an old story of a young monk who pondered the question, "why do some people remain faithful and others do not". So, he presented the question to an elder monk who was known for his wisdom And in reply the elder told a tale of a dog chasing a rabbit, there was such a fuss other dogs joined in the chase. But they soon tired out and quit leaving the lead dog alone in the chase. And the elder monk asked, "do you know why" to which the young monk said, "no". And the elder explained he was alone because he was the only one who saw the rabbit to remain faithful one must have the vision

"to remain faithful, one must have the vision."

Is that not what John the Baptist is preparing us for in our Gospel reading To the vision and reality of the coming Christ.

Joan Chiddister a Benedictine Sister and writer wrote this in part in a reflection she had on Advent,

“This Advent when things seem bleaker than usual on every front, perhaps we must try to pray with a blank mind. Just wait. Don’t focus on anything in particular. don’t want a single, specific thing.... Then see what comes. And accept it. Knowing that whatever it is, probably will not look like anything you were hoping to get. The baby did not look like God ... the manger did not look like a kingdom. The place did not look promising. But in those things, lay our salvation. This Advent just learn to wait It's one of life's greatest lessons.”

Waiting for anything is hard for us between microwaves and turning on and off of switches to Google searches, so much is instantaneous for us today. But in many ways, it could be said that the life of a Christian is too be in a constant state

of Advent of awaiting. Our Sacramental life is an exercise in Advent from Christ coming anew in our hearts and minds; with each Confession, with each Eucharist with each prayer and devotion we give up to the heavens and there is our works of Charity that is second to none.

It is no secret that there is much to be desired in our human day to day struggles but there is brilliance in the vision of the Blessed Trinity. there is so much we have to share. In our Advent we should not hide the light we seek under a bushel basket.

Our state of the world seems bleak today. Today in so many ways we are hit smack in the face with the vision of how useless it is for us to trust in things of the world versus the things of God. That we can't legislate or dictate morality. Once one loses the vision nothing puts them into the chase for long. Laws have their place but they do not change

hearts or make us noble. The world needs transformation and a vision that sees what our creator made us for., Christ makes us question ourselves as Saint Peter does in our second reading: “What sort of people ought we to be “.

What would happen if the whole world took a breath this Advent season and truly prayed and awaited on the Lord for an answer. What if more people had this vision? What if we all prayed as Sister Joan tells us: where we don't want a single, specific thing...? But to await and see what comes. And then accept it. To live a true Advent. Knowing that whatever it is, it probably will not look like anything we were hoping to get.

“Blessed Advent all.”