

Brothers and Sisters. Today we begin to prepare for Christmas. Advent time is "the time of the God who comes". He invites us to go out to meet him. In today's Gospel, Jesus wants to express to us three very important facts for our Christian life:

1. That He will return.
2. That we do not know when.
3. That we have to watch and be vigilant, because we do not know the day or the hour.

From the Gospel reading Jesus is the man who goes to distant lands, (this is his foretelling of his ascension). The same thing will happen as with the man who left home, entrusting each of the servants with his tasks and ordered the porter to watch them (Mk 13,34). To the Church, and to all of us, we are entrusted with a task in this life. When we least expect it, Jesus will return. Since we do not know the day or the hour, we must be vigilant. Let us now briefly explain each of these three facts.

**First fact:**

Jesus will return in his full glory and majesty at the end of the world. Saint Paul says in second Thessalonians 1, 7: "When the Lord Jesus appears from heaven with the angels of his power". As we said last Sunday, we will be judged on love.

**Second fact:**

Each one has to carry out his task in this world. We all have a vocation, talents that the Lord has given us. We cannot waste them. We have to work to multiply them. Remember the parable of the talents in Matthew 25, 15: "He gave to each according to his ability". In this time of Advent we should ask ourselves if we take advantage of the talents to love God and our neighbor more.

**Third fact:**

Be vigilant. Live according to the will of God, following in the footsteps of Jesus. Jesus, in the garden of Gethsemane, told the apostles to watch and pray so as to not fall into temptation.

As the porter watches, we must watch and be wary of the snares of the world, the devil and the flesh.

Therefore, Advent is preparing for Christmas. How do I prepare for Christmas? Making a good confession, going to Mass every Sunday, visiting the Blessed Sacrament and placing the manger in the home, as a visible sign of the waiting for the Lord's arrival. Finally, have your heart always ready to listen to the Word of the Lord and always do works of mercy.