

## HOMILY FOR FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT MATTHEW

1. Gospel reminds me of kids game Hide and Seek
  - a. After counting to whatever number, one says ready or not her I come
  - b. Goes off to try to catch those not paying attention
2. Jesus tells us wake up, I am coming ready or not
  - a. Need to pay attention and not get too complacent
  - b. As he says if you know when the thief was going to break in you would be ready for him
  - c. If we get too comfortable suddenly we will be shocked when the thief brakes in
3. When Jesus comes will we be ready for Him or will we too busy doing day to to day tasks to even see him coming
  - a. Images of two men in field or two women grinding at mill one of each taken and one left at firs frightening
  - b. Left Behind series of books and movies have made exciting horror stories from what they call the Rapture
  - c. My sense of the readings is that it makes more sense in context of the first reading and Psalm
4. Jesus is inviting us to come and celebrate with him
  - a. Let us go rejoicing to the House of God
  - b. Isaiah says the day is coming when God's mountain will be the place to be
  - c. The nations will be streaming in excitement to climb the Lord's mountain and rejoice with God
  - d. God will show us how to live in a world where there is no need for war
  - e. We can turn the instruments of battle in tools for living
5. When he comes will we be ready to follow him
  - a. So he says pay attention to the signs of the times
  - b. The night is almost over, the day of his coming is almost here
  - c. When he comes to lead us to God's life will we be ready for him

6. God gives us every opportunity to get ready for his coming
  - a. He urges us to a day of rest each week so that we can pay attention to what is happening around us
  - b. He feeds us with his own body and blood to strengthen ourselves for the journey
  - c. He offers us Reconciliation to make peace with God for our offenses
  - d. In all the sacraments he reaches out to us to welcome us into his life
  - e. We have opportunities for prayer to consider how God is entering into our life
  - f. Are we ready to pay attention to be at the head of the line when Jesus is ready to lead us up his mountain
  
7. Or are the attractions of the daily grind to engrossing for us
  - a. The examples Jesus gives of two people in field or two women grinding at the mill
  - b. In each case two people are doing their daily work
  - c. But one is alert to a world beyond their little task
  - d. Because they pay attention to the spiritual world, they are ready to follow Jesus up to the mountain of God
  - e. The other person so caught up in this world will wake up too late and discover how much he missed
  - f. Instead of enjoying and celebrating life with God, he or she will only very late realize how much they missed by not being ready for His coming
  
8. So as Jesus is telling us, let's stay awake
  - a. Remember there is more to life than the everyday grind of work
  - b. God is inviting us to his House to celebrate and enjoy life with him
  - c. Will we be ready to follow Him or will we miss the real purpose of life being too caught up in our daily routine even to see him come to us.