



December 3, 2017 First Sunday of Advent Lectionary: 2 Gospel MK 13:33-37

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"

Spiritual Reflection:

"The moment you experience self-satisfaction in your ministry is the most dangerous moment. This is when the devil will concentrate all his forces to take you by surprise." – Cardinal Francis Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan. St. Ignatius of Loyola in his rules of Spiritual Discernment compares the devil to a warlord or general who constantly seeks our weakest point to attack.

Spiritual Questions:

1. How "alert" are you?
2. What are some moments in your life when you are most vulnerable to spiritual attack?
3. What do you do to build up your defenses against temptation?
4. What are some prayer practices that you can do to strengthen yourself?
5. How can you help others fight against the devil?