Dec. 3, 2017
First Sunday of Advent

**Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7**
**1 Cor 1:3-9**
**Mk 13:33-37**

By Don Timmerman

This is the first Sunday of Advent. Again, we remind ourselves that Christ came as one of us to teach us how to be joyful and even happy. We are all God’s children, both here and abroad. In the first reading, we see that we are ALL the work of God’s hands. We are all brothers and sisters, both here and abroad. In the second reading, we are reminded that we are in the fellowship of Christ. He is our big brother, the brother of all peoples. He is the one who comes, who shows us the ways of becoming joyful, being saved. In the Gospel we are told to stay awake, be faithful to the instruction of Christ.

So what is the instruction of Christ? What does he tell us to do? Christ’s instruction to us if to remember we are all from God, and we are to love all people, both friends and enemies, no matter where they live in the world. We are told that whatever we do to one another we do also to our big brother, Christ. If we hurt, maim or kill anyone for any reason we do the same to Christ because we are all family from the same God, who loves us all. So, if we refuse to help our sister or brother in need anywhere in the world we are also refusing help to Christ. If we fight and hurt or kill anyone in God’s family we are also doing the same to Christ. If we do good to someone we are doing good to Christ.

We are told to stay awake or be conscious of what we are doing to one another. We are easily swept up by the views of the world. We are told the way to become happy is to get as much stuff as possible, all the modern conveniences, all the products that make simply tasks easier to do, to eat whatever tastes good, not what is good for us. We are told who our enemies are, and are expected to despise them and punish them, hurt them for the country. The country sees only what is good for it, not what is good for the whole family of nations. The world view is that if we get rid of all our enemies we will be safe and happy. Christ’s instructions are much different. We are to do good to those who do evil to us.

Christ warns us to be wary of the views of the world because these views are not God’s views. If we want to be happy, to be saved, we must do what is good for all the people of the world, not just us, to be kind and gentle to all, to rid evil with Goodness and Love. That is Christ’s way.

Think how happier we would be if we only followed Christ’s way. There would likely be much less or even no more fighting, no wars, no weapons, and all the trillions of dollars saved by doing this could be spent to the elimination of poverty, ignorance and disease throughout the world.
The best way to prepare for the celebration of Christ’s birth is to follow His instructions on being one of His followers.

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