

Jesus is the Star!

With the First Sunday of Advent we begin the New Liturgical Year...Always a good time for resolutions and new beginnings. So let's look at the reading in that light.

Luke speaks in Apocalyptic Language! "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on earth nations will be in dismay,

From the beginning people have interpreted in the light of end times. And that is not to be denied!

But if this is all the text means...then it truly only has meaning for those who live in the end times! **But what about all the generations that have lived and are living now?** Those who have not experienced the end times and the second coming of Jesus. What does the text have to say to us.?

Well remember what "Apocalypse" means...the pulling back of the veil...to see clearly a new world.

The scriptures and the churches interpretation of scripture has never said that any part of the scriptures is just for a specific age. **All of scripture is for us now...since the kingdom and its coming is in our midst. They speak to every generation so that the veil may be pull back for clear vision!**

The arrival of Jesus does indeed entail the breakdown of an old world and the ushering of a new a new one. It means the world in which we live in and the world in which we operate today.

Now think of the reference of Jesus...**The sun and moon and the heavenly bodies, that will fall from the sky and shone no more.** These are the fixed points, by which the ancients lived their lives and the seasons guided their work and their paths. Here again, not to be taken literally for our times. Therefore, **symbolically speaking, the shaking of these things, the falling of these things to the ground, signal that an establish way of life is ceding to something new. The establish way of orienting ourselves is giving way to something new.**

For many people, talking to sinners out there, I being one of them, for all of us sinners, the acquisition of wealth, or power, or success in business might be the navigational constance. By those fixed stars we tend to guide our lives. These things and values keeps us focus. And if not business or wealth, then maybe

friendships, family, or country might be our touch stone that we go to orient our lives.

If asked “What kind of person are you?” What would be your response, “I’m a family man, a patriot, an honorable person.” Now mind you...Not bad things to say! Not at all. Bad things to aspire to? Not really!

Now here’s the point: When Jesus comes into one’s life...everything has to change. And all of these fixed points...touch stones have make way. When Jesus comes into your life, **He is the Star**, the sun, the moon and all the planets. He the fixed point, he’s that by which we steer our lives. Now pleasing him, doing what he wants, following him is all that finally matters. And all the good things I mentioned have to find their place in relation to him. All these things have to fall to the earth or be obscured by his light that shines brightly.

Once we get this basic principle, the gospel opens in a fresh way. Let’s say money and wealth are your fixed stars, what does Jesus say. “Go and sell all you have and follow me.” Let say prestige and honor are you touch stone...worldly success. What does Jesus say, “he who humbles himself will be exalted.” If popularity and esteem are your comfort and security, Jesus says, “Blessed you who are persecuted and hated because of the Son of Man.” If worldly glory and success are your fixed stars, Jesus says “take up your cross and follow in my footsteps.

How radical is this? If your family is your sun and moon and stars, what does Jesus say, “Unless you love me more than your mother and father, more than your very life you are not worthy of me.” Listen--even if religion itself is your fixed star, Jesus says, “I tell you not one stone of this temple will be left one on other.

To show this in dramatic fashion. **Even the great St. Paul**, after he meet the Risen Jesus...who has Saul dedicated his life to the best things of Israel, the traditions of the Jewish faith and the Torah...once Jesus came into his life, what does he say? “I now consider all these things rubbish.” This is extraordinary! You see what Paul is saying, his fixed stars fall to the ground once Jesus arrives in his life!

Now I remind you **none of the things mentions are bad**, there all good, religion, the institutions of religion, your own families. None of them are morally objectionable. **Yet all of them must revolved around something more permanent.**

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Give your worldly success to Christ! Give your fame, if you have it to him! Give your family to Christ! Give your work to Christ! He's the fixed star!

Therefore, **to prepare for the coming of Christ, that's what Advent is for after all,** we are preparing for the invasion of Christ which will upset our whole life!

We are sinners, every one of us, **therefore to prepare for Christ, we have to ready ourselves for a kind of Apocalypse, a breakdown, a kind of revolution.** Our world has to be upended when Jesus comes in. And face it fellow sinners, it's no fun to be turned upside down. It is a gut wrenching business to rearrange one's values and commitments. But that's the challenge of Advent!

Listen to the last lines of the gospel, **be vigilant at all times and pray that you will have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man.** He's the Sun, the moon and the planet. He's the fixed star...He's the light and we have to ready ourselves to stand in his light. We want to stand in His Light

You see the gospel is not just about the last days...It is about our days, and the Advent of God who comes into OUR World. AMEN!

Homily inspired by Bishop Barron's weekly podcast.