

Missed Opportunities

Watch and pray in anticipation of the Lord's coming.

In November of 1988, the Dallas Morning News ran a front-page story about a house that burned down, killing five people. What made the story especially tragic was that Sonny Simpson, the house's owner, had been planning for two weeks to install a smoke alarm. Simpson told reporters that it was something that he kept putting off because he was too busy with other things. Now five of his loved ones are dead, and there's nothing he, or anyone else, can do to bring them back to life.

That tragic story hits close to home with all of us. There are so many things that we want to do, but we keep putting them off, for one reason or another. There are mothers who want to get to know their daughters better but keep putting it off for some reason or another. There are fathers who want to get to know their sons better but keep putting it off-for some reason or another. There are husbands and wives who want to deepen their relationship with their spouse but keep putting it off for some reason or another. There's a human tendency in all of us to put things off. But a closer look shows that maybe that's not the whole story.

A closer look shows that perhaps our problem isn't that of putting things off. Rather, it's that of missing opportunities. During those two weeks when Sonny Simpson was planning to install a smoke alarm, I'm sure he could have found time to do it. He simply missed the opportunities. The same is true of us. Our days are full of missed opportunities to do things we want to do or ought to do.

Jesus has something to say about all of this in today's gospel. Talking about his return at the end of the world, he says of that all-important moment: "Be on guardThe great day will suddenly close in on you like a trap So be on the watch. Pray constantly." Be ready for that all-important moment. Jesus is warning us about getting so involved with the ordinary things of life that we forget about the more important things of life.

Jesus is warning us about getting so involved in this life that we forget about the next life. And I ask you, my brothers and sisters, which life is more important: the few years that we spend in this world, or the eternity of years that we will spend in the world to come?

Be on guard! Watch! Pray!

These are three important instructions.

That's why Advent is such an important season in the liturgical year.

The word Advent means "coming."

The word underscores Advent's purpose. It's to make ready for the coming of Jesus.

When you ready yourself for His coming, you will know that.

You Are Loved (John: 3-16)

Deacon Dan

