

Monday Quotes



Grain

“The pandemic is a marathon.” –Dr. Geof Swain, UW Madison Professor Emeritus and retired City of Milwaukee Health Department Director

Field

³² “But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Beware, keep alert;^[b] for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴ It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵ Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶ or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.” Mk 13:32-37

Thoughts

Beware. Stay alert. Keep awake. We enter the Advent season with Jesus’ words of warning in the Gospel of St. Mark.

What is coming? Our church calendar points to the celebration of the birth of Jesus. However, in our reading, we have the full-grown Jesus speaking about something else that’s coming - danger. His birth and life pointed to love and a warning about where we place our allegiances. Don’t slumber in your infatuation with other powers in the midst of God’s call to you.

How easy it is to not remain alert to significant messages in our lives. I think of the pandemic as an example. Recently, at a meeting the Wisconsin Department of Health Services organized for faith leaders, Dr. Swain referred to the pandemic as a marathon. He also said the coronavirus is the worst kind of virus, even referring to it as “evil.” It is extremely contagious even when the person with COVID doesn’t have symptoms. It’s deadly but doesn’t affect everyone the same way, giving some people the false impression that it isn’t that bad. He mentioned vaccines being on the horizon. But right now, we are in the hardest part of the marathon, when we’re tired of hearing about the virus and maneuvering around it. Maybe we’re tempted to listen to messages that diminish the danger of the virus, and we start to abandon our precautions. But we still need to be on alert in the middle of our Ironman race.

Many of us are also weary from the elections while misinformation campaigns linger and swell. We don’t know where the divisions in our country will lead, but we are charged to remain awake to Jesus’ love. As we prepare to celebrate Jesus’ birth into our world, be watchful of the powers you align yourselves with. You belong to God. Happy Monday!

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Many Blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy