

December 15, 2022

One way of really enriching our Advent journey is to keep in mind the **three comings** of Jesus and how they relate to one another: His **past** coming at the **first** Christmas, His **future** coming at the end of time, and his **present coming** in our **everyday life**.



I find it **awesome** that God wanted to be one of **us** and live on this **earth**. I have been blessed to have gone to the **Holy Land** three times. What an awe-inspiring experience that was. I am a firm believer in “**where there’s a will, there’s a way**”, so, I organized **pilgrimages** and got to go **free**. Sorry you weren’t around to join me!

Jesus was born into our history at a fixed point in time in the **past**, but today He comes to us in Scripture, inspirational books, people, nature, a poem, or the beauty of a song. God is often found most **powerfully** and **clearly** in the midst of messy, broken, exhausting, hurting lives. He is there in those who provide **food** for the hungry, who care for Covid19 patients, those who distribute vaccines. And in the wisdom that has allowed us to expand the use of **zoom**. Think of the **money** and **time** we save **through zoom meetings!**

As we pray “**Come, Lord Jesus,**” during the Advent season we are expressing our desire for the Lord to come to us with the grace of **salvation** and be with us in **all the places we need him most now**. Let us **seek the presence** of God **in** the midst of our **everyday** lives and **not** go looking **elsewhere!**

Advent encompasses the fullness of time itself, much like our God. No point in our lives is **without** God. **Advent** is a good time to check up on how in 2022 we have spent time in **service** of the Lord and others and, how we can do **better in 2023**.

So, how do we ready ourselves for Jesus to come to us? **First**, we must learn to be **expectant** by being **attentive** to our surroundings and **anticipating** God’s **presence**. **No selective hearing!** We hear what we listen for. I’m sure we’ve all suffered from “selective hearing” at least once or twice in our lives. Something must happen in our **hearts** for us to be **open** to and be **aware** of His **presence now**. That something is **relationship**. **Belonging** to God—and **knowing God** makes **experiencing** him possible. A **relationship** with him **grows** through **time** and **trust**.

Our God is a God of **surprises**. He shows up **whenever** and **wherever** He pleases, even when we’re not expecting Him. He **invades** grocery lines, cafeterias, offices, nursing stations, patient rooms, family gatherings. And, He speaks in ways we **expect** and in ways we do **not**. So, be **alert**. **He’s coming!**

Be alert!

Be safe. Stay well. God bless.