



Day 75

To Astonish or be Astonished: Webster's Dictionary - a verb - to cause a feeling of great wonder or sudden and overpowering surprise. In the New Testament, there are no less than 20 verses that speak of people being astonished (or amazed), most of which are reactions to something that Jesus did or said.

What about in our day? In what ways are we astonished or amazed?

At a recent morning Mass at All saints Catholic School in Cincinnati, Ohio, students were listening to Fr. Recker. He engaged the students based on the Gospel of that day:

"Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour when the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come." Then Peter said, "Lord, is this parable meant for us or for everyone?" And the Lord replied, "Who, then, is the faithful and prudent steward whom the master will put in charge of his servants to distribute [the] food allowance at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master on arrival finds doing so. Truly, I say to you, he will put him in charge of all his property. But if that servant says to himself, 'My master is delayed in coming,' and begins to beat the menservants and the maidservants, to eat and drink and get drunk, then that servant's master will come on an unexpected day and at an unknown hour and will punish him severely and assign him a place with the unfaithful. That servant who knew his master's will but did not make preparations nor act in accord with his will shall be beaten severely; and the servant who was ignorant of his master's will but acted in a way deserving of a severe beating shall be beaten only lightly. Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more." Luke 12:39

He asked: "What does it mean to prepared? How do we prepare? And what are we preparing for?" Eventually he asked "When will Jesus come again?" To his surprise a 4th grader and then a 3rd grader answered "the Parousia." With a smile he said "Yes, you are right but I did not expect that answer!" From my vantage point and the expression on his face I would say he was astonished. Is it merely a coincidence that Isaiah spoke about this, hundreds of years before Jesus was born? In Chapter 11, sometimes referred to as the Peaceable Kingdom, in verse 6 Isaiah says "with a little child to guide them."

When the disciples were concerned about who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven, (Matt. 18:1-5), Jesus uses a child as a model, advising them "unless you change and become like children you will not enter the kingdom of heaven." If we are attentive the children will guide us in astonishing ways.

In Christ

Sue Van Hersett