



Summer Sermon Series ~ Stories From The Road

Stay Awake

August 7, 2022

Rev. Emma Chattin, Preaching

First Reading ~ Luke 12:32-40

"Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Heavenly Parent's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give the money to poorer people. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For wherever your treasure is, that's where your heart will be.

"Be dressed and ready, and keep your lamps lit; be like the household staff awaiting the owner's return from a wedding, so that when the owner arrives and knocks, you'll open the door without delay. Blessed are the servants whom the owner finds wide awake upon returning. I tell you the absolute truth, the owner will put on an apron, seat them at the table, and prepare to serve them. Should the owner happen to come at midnight, or before sunrise, and find them prepared, it will go well with them.

"Understand this: no homeowner who knew when a thief was coming would have let the thief break in! So be on guard- the Promised One will come when least expected."

Second Reading ~ adapted from Father Richard Rohr in "To Be Awake is to Live in the Present"

The last words Jesus spoke to his apostles in the Garden of Gethsemane were "Stay awake"; in fact he says it twice. I believe the work of religion is, more than anything else, to keep you awake, alert, alive, conscious. Consciousness comes from a wholehearted surrender to the moment. I can't prove God to you, but if you're conscious, you will experience God. People who are present will experience the Presence.

To be here now is the simplest thing in the world and the hardest thing to teach. In many ways it is the very foundation of all religion and all spirituality. You cannot get there by any kind of worthiness contest whatsoever. You cannot get there; you can only be there. I am convinced that the purest form of spirituality is the ability to accept the "sacrament of the present moment", and to find God in what is right in front of you. At that level, there is almost nothing to argue about. In fact, argumentative religion proceeds from not being present.