

“Wait until your father gets home.” These words struck fear and trepidation into the minds of my siblings and me while we were growing up. It succinctly said all that needed to be said; the waiting in question was not one of joyful anticipation, but one of the hope of mercy, as we rehearsed our defense in preparation of his return.

In truth, that scenario did not happen very often, but the threat alone was enough to instill a holy fear. When the Bible uses the phrase, “Lo, the day is coming,” it was seen as a significant introductory phrase—that which follows is important! It made everyone stand up a little straighter and pay attention.

The prophet Malachi describes three types of people: (1) evil doers who apparently flourish, (2) the begrudgingly obedient who envy evil-doers, and (3) the Lord’s servants who trust in His Name. The prophet reduces these three types to two basic categories: the just and the wicked—those who serve God and those who do not serve Him. For, while the begrudgingly obedient may perform their duty, they do so without love. Their hearts long for something else— they long for the evil doers’ apparent prosperity.

Since the service of God is fundamentally a service of love, the begrudgingly obedient fail to serve Him in truth. A judgment in fire awaits them along with the evil-doers whom they envy, whereas for those who fear the Lord’s Name, that is, for those who serve Him faithfully in love, “there will arise the sun of justice with its healing rays.”



justice. Jesus has honored with the title, "Sun of Justice" since the earliest centuries of the Church, for he is the Lord of creation and the Light that came into the world to dispel sin and darkness.

We should not overlook these titles of Jesus, these Old Testament phrases that became enshrined in the liturgy of the Church, for they are seen as precursors to our Lord and Savior. The Litany of the Holy Name of Jesus contains this title as an invocation: Jesus, Sun of Justice, have mercy on us.

The early Christians marveled at creation, and saw it as a reflection of the grandeur of God. They paid attention to the changing seasons, and the imagery surrounding them. Today, I am afraid we marvel much more at technology, and see in it man's progress and triumph, rather than as a sign of the dwelling of the Holy Spirit in our world.

Jesus warns us in the Gospel that the days are coming when there will not be a stone left upon another stone, but that through our perseverance we will secure our lives, a clear reference to our salvation. If the strong words in all of this week's readings do not shake us up a bit, I am afraid we have become completely numb. "Lo, the day is coming." We must be prepared, prepared to give our testimony, and seeking warmth and shelter under the loving arms of our Savior Jesus Christ, the Sun of Justice.