

Fr. Martin's Reflection – December 4, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We have our first week of Advent behind us and now heading into week two. What do you find is eating up all your time, and all your energy? What's the Christmas preparations looking like? Is the tree up, are the lights up, presents bought, and do you know who all is coming for Christmas dinner? Oh, I forgot to send Jane, from my running group a card for Christmas, I've still time.

All the above can make Christmas so stressful and frustrating, and wishing it was December 26 already. But truth be told, the above is not Christmas, it's secular life on steroids. Christmas is about slowing down, taking a breath, and reflecting on your life relationship with the Child Jesus, the man Jesus, the God Jesus, the one who truly loves us and cares for us. So, the question we need to ask ourselves this Christmas and every Christmas is:

So, Jesus, how we doing?

How well do you know me, Jesus? Do you know what's happening at work? Do you know what's happening at home, between me and my parents, kids, siblings, my husband/wife? Did you know I changed jobs this year? Did you know my mom died? Did you know ...? I realize I didn't tell you any of this, I took it for granted that since you know everything you knew all that was happening in my life. The problem with me not telling you, isn't that you may not know, but you don't get the chance to help me, you don't get the chance to sympathize with me, or support me, because I'm too busy with trees, lights, and presents.

Jesus, help me to truly prepare for Christmas. Call me to a quiet place, as you did your disciples, and help me sit with you, to feel your presence, your closeness. Help me to hear your word, your gentle kind words. Let them fill my heart, nourishing me, renewing me, and filling me with your love for all your people. Jesus, demand of me that I give you time every day. Insist that I find a quiet place and sit with you. Each day let me read your words from scripture, let me hear your beautiful and kind voice.

Thank you, dear Jesus, oh thank you, for giving yourself to me.

Thank you, dear Jesus, oh thank you, for loving me.

Thank you, dear Jesus, oh thank you, for all your help and care.

Thank you, dear Jesus, oh thank you, for being with me here.

Fr. Martin