



This tone continues from that of last Sunday's Gospel Reading as we celebrated the Solemnity of Christ the King. This week's gospel continues with Jesus declaring the good news and urging our preparation:

*“And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.”*

What does this mean for those in recovery from the family disease of addiction? First, we must come to realize that nothing on this earth lasts, including the pain we witness in ourselves and loved ones. As we find freedom from our own insanity, we might find ourselves pursuing other areas of life to control. New seemingly less destructive attitudes or behaviors have the potential to be developed without our recognition. Therefore, we gather together in family recovery meetings to understand the wholeness of our spiritual condition through the shared experience of our fellows.

Furthermore, it is often the case that we must witness the collapse of our own kingdom before awakening to the Kingdom of God. In 12-step recovery, we refer to this as a *spiritual awakening*. It is through the realization of our own powerlessness that the Son of Man can stake a claim to our lives. In fact, Jesus continues with a warning to be prepared for his second coming:

*“Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life, and that day catch you by surprise like a trap.”*

The Twelve Steps of addiction recovery prepare us to stand before our Lord and structure our lives, one day at a time, to seek Him and His Kingdom for our ultimate fulfillment. The Power which we seek to direct our will and our lives is the same Power we seek as our Daily Bread—it is an enduring power that lasts.

This begins a season to shift our sights from the chaos and insanity of this passing world.. Throughout Advent, we calibrate our focus to the Son of Man who reveals the love of God in our lives. We await our Lord's coming with hope and patience, knowing that His presence withstands whatever chaos we may experience in this life. Let's continue to ask God that we may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with Him forever in the next.