14/04/2020

H.E. Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Franscisco – Holy Monday Reflection 2020



Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

In each of the Matins for the first days of Holy Week, we hear and sing the beautiful hymn, “Behold the Bridegroom comes in the middle of the night. And blessed is the servant whom he shall find vigilant…Ἰδοὺ ὁ Νυμφίος ἔρχεται ἐν τῷ μέσῳ τῆς νυκτός.”

The Church calls us to be ready to receive Christ. But, we will be reminded during the week that we must become like the wise maidens at the wedding feast, prepared and vigilant. We cannot lose focus or grow impatient while we wait.

I believe we can relate to the sentiment expressed in the hymns. In these recent days, during our lock-downs, we have all been told that we cannot drop our guard or become lax in our attentiveness about the precautions we must take to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus.

We are not accustomed to such vigilance and focus. We usually go about our lives casually. Now that we are being told to maintain our physical distances to contain the virus, we are growing in our sense of awareness. Just as we are more carefully washing our hands these days, we can bring the same attentiveness to the rest of

our lives. This is training us for the vigilance and focus we need in our spiritual lives. We can begin to notice what we usually fail to notice in ourselves.

May Christ our God, who willingly went to His Passion for our salvation, be with you always.

Source