

Daily Homily
1 Week of Advent 2020
2 December 2020
[USCCB Daily Readings](#)

Both readings today beg a question: Do you even need a savior?

If we go about our lives with the self-assurance, the self-reliance, or even the selfishness of I can “go it alone,” “I don’t need anyone,” “I can figure this out without help,” “I can control this situation without interference,” or that old song from Simon and Garfunkel comes to mind, “I am a rock, I am an island...” if this is how we live life, then we don’t need a savior. We are our self-savior. And to that I say, “Good luck.”

A savior is one who will rescue you from that which you have no control over. A savior is one who “lightens my darkness. With you I can break through any barrier, with my God I can scale any wall” (Psalm 18:30). Do you need this? Do you need a savior?

If not, discipleship, Catholicism, Advent, Christmas, Easter, none of it will make sense. None of this will be relevant. Until, of course, the disappointment of me, myself, and I catches up to us and settles in, deep down. If and when this happens, to whom will we turn? Some, unfortunately turn to demons, any choice addictions or vices. Some run from a situation or play the avoidance game. Some simply settle in complacency and live a “good enough” life. Some even try to by-pass the Savior by becoming a savior themselves for some lost individual, some lost soul – as if, one can do a better job at this “savior career.” Some, turn to the ultimate and only Savior that we have in Jesus Christ by inviting him to be all that he can be for us. Trusting him, abandoning ourselves to his care, being patient with his timing, relying on his wisdom.

Isaiah says it... “The Lord provides.” “Let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!”
Matthew records it... “They all ate and were satisfied.”

This is what a savior does: provides and satisfies. Do you need this? If so, then part of the prayer of Advent should lead us to consider: What do we need provided for us? Where do we have a hunger that needs to be satisfied? Where do we need a Savior in our world, our community, in our home, and within our hearts? Pray that He comes to rescue us – mostly from ourselves – that He comes to provide and to satisfy.