

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2020
"HAVE A LITTLE FAITH PART 5"

By Rev. Joanna Dietz

But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. ~2 Peter 3:8-15a (NRSV)

I live with a procrastinator. He will hold off to complete a chore until the second before I swoop in and complete the task for him, tired of waiting. Laundry will sit in the washer longer than I'm comfortable. The empty garbage bin will sit on the curb for 24 hours longer than I'd like before it's brought up. All the while, I continually tell myself I could do the task and just get it done. I'm a planner. When I have a lot of tasks to complete, I create lists and tick off items as they are accomplished.

The Christians in the writer of Peter's time seemed to be a bit of procrastinators, as well. The writer is encouraging them that, even though the time of the Messiah's coming is not right now, that doesn't mean to live lives as if it doesn't matter, or that there's plenty of time to repent. You never know when things might go sideways! You don't want to get caught being late to this party!

It's easy to put things off until the next day. Our lives are so busy to begin with and adding tasks, or even the kindness of caring for our family, friends, and neighbors can be just more than we think we can handle.

However, we are encouraged to plan ahead and prepare the way for God to come on earth. Our part is not complacent, but active. We are invited into the Divine act of loving the community, finding ways to act with justice and compassion, and treating others as the special individuals that God has made them to be, each with their unique gift to share with the community.

Prayer: Patient God, move us to respond to your action in our lives. May we not wait in our sinful ways, but repent and share the good news with those around us of your Light coming into our world. Amen.

Thought for the Day: Do not put off until tomorrow what you can do today.