

In World War Two, an Army chaplain is credited with saying, "There are no atheists in foxholes." The gist of the saying being, that under great stress - people will turn to God; becoming very serious about matters of faith.

Professional atheists, however, would dispute such thoughts. But that is another story.

In the Gospel, Our Lord speaks to the crowd about a lack of seriousness regarding the behavior of many in His time - and I would dare guess that it applies to our time as well.

*"We played the flute for you, but you did not dance,  
we sang a dirge but you did not mourn."*

Often times people desire to be the masters of their own lives. Yet that is hardly true. Good times may come without much effort on our part ... and tragedy may strike despite our best efforts.

In the worst case, we can attempt to be masters of God - using religion as a cover for our own desires; and in the extreme creating a false god that we hope to control and perhaps even expect others to follow.

Yet the prophet Isaiah, speaking on behalf of the LORD, gives a recipe for spiritual success:

*I, the LORD, your God, [will]  
teach you what is for your good,  
and lead you on the way you should go.  
If you would hearken to my commandments ...*

As we proceed through this season of Advent, nearing the half-way point; let us pray for a deeper level of spiritual honesty. Let us dig deep, and work to "let go and let God." By surrendering our joys and sorrows to God's will, may we know His peace - as we prepare for the birth of the Prince of Peace - Jesus Christ - at Christmas.