

In Luke's Gospel today, Jesus asks the Scribes and Pharisees, "What are you thinking in your hearts?" They were questioning His authority to forgive sins. They were questioning Jesus, rather than taking the time to know Him personally. It made me question myself, "How well do I know Him, who forgives my sins?"

Advent is the perfect time to personally reflect on what is truly in our hearts. How does my relationship with Christ guide me in my relationship with others? Am I giving, or do I withhold my love? Am I compassionate or judgmental?

In one of my favorite songs, "He's Been Faithful to Me," the lyrics so precisely capture the essence of my life ---- "Looking back His love and mercy I see, though in my heart I have questioned, even failed to believe, yet He's been faithful to me."

Life circumstances can test our belief and how we truly feel about our relationship with Jesus. In our struggles when things don't go the way we expect, we may lose sight of Him. But, on the other side of hard times, it may be easier to see how His love and mercy guided us through.

As we journey through Advent, let us take time each day to look at how we handle the events and relationships we encounter. Why not step back and ask ourselves, "What are you thinking in your heart?"