

## WILL YOU BE READY TO MEET THE LORD WHEN HE COMES?

### Gospel of Matthew 25:14-30

We are approaching the end of the liturgical year. The Sunday Readings of this time have been reminding us of the importance to be ready for the coming of the Lord, because His coming will not be announced, but it will be at an "unexpected day and hour..., like a thief in the night".

Last Sunday we were urged to have "oil for our lamps, so that the light will not go out" (Matthew 25:1-13). Lamps and light represent our life of faith which, in order to remain alive and active, needs the oil of persevering prayer and deeds of charity. On this 33rd Sunday of Ordinary time, Jesus tells the parable of the "talents" that a rich man, going on a journey, entrusts to his servants, according to their ability (Matthew 25:14-30).

"After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them", beginning with the one who had received five talents to the one who had received one talent. Notice that the master is pleased with the two slaves who had invested and doubled the talents each had respectively received. But he was very disappointed with the slave who chose to do nothing and had hidden the talent received. While the the first two slaves get to enjoy their master's favour and benefits, the third one is thrown out and expelled from from the master's house. With this parable Jesus is reminding us that we have each received gifts, abilities and opportunities, along with a manual of instructions about what and how to use them for the right purpose (Scripture and the Church).

At the end of our life journey the Lord will settle accounts and will ask us: WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH THE GIFTS AND BLESSINGS I HAVE BESTOWED UPON YOU? (The gift of life, family, friends, community, job, home, money, etc.).

- WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH THE GIFT OF FAITH, CHURCH, SACRAMENTS? - HOW HAVE YOU USED TIME, ESPECIALLY DURING THIS PANDEMIC?

Have you grown more aware of your mortality and shortness of life, and of your need for God? - Have you become more sensitive to the needs of the poor and less fortunate?

Have you used this time to grow into a personal relationship with Jesus?

Are you learning to focus less on the passing things of this world and more on things pertaining the salvation of your soul?

LET US LIVE FOR THE PURPOSE WE WERE CREATED FOR: TO KNOW GOD, TO LOVE GOD, TO SERVE GOD IN THIS LIFE, AND REJOICE WITH HIM IN HEAVEN!