

2022 C 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time August 07

Did you ever feel pending your life waiting on other people to get ready? Or are you on the other side of this equation? Maybe you are the one who can never be on time, and other people are constantly nagging to you hurry up?

Parents often feel like their life is on long cycle of “**hurry up and wait.**” A parent posted the following thoughts on Twitter: What I say: **Be ready, we are leaving in 5 minutes.**

What the child hears: **Get undressed. Start finger painting. Lose at least one shoe.**

Kid can be forgiven for not understanding the concept of “Getting ready.” But it is a lot harder to laugh it off when it happens to us adults.

Today’s gospel text from Luke tells us about Jesus’ trying to prepare his disciples to carry on his work after his death. He was trying his best to tell this for a while now. They don’t get it. It’s kind of the parent in Twitter about “**what I say,**” versus **what his “children hear.”** This whole chapter of Luke 12 could be titled, “Wake Up! Get Ready!” And we need to pay close attention for its message is relevant for us today as it was for the disciples years ago.

As Jesus and the disciples getting closer to Jerusalem they were followed by a crowd of “thousands of people.” The two things Jesus knows what his disciples don’t know: 1) That popularity is not a measure of success in God’s eyes; but obedience is. 2) And that he is on the way to Jerusalem and his death on the cross.

So instead of impressing the crowd by a miracle or a fire-breathing sermon, Jesus addresses his disciple, “**Do not be afraid any longer, little flock, for my Father is pleased to give you the kingdom.**” I challenge every one of us to commit this verse 32 to memory. I really believe this one verse, would change our lives. It would change how we view the future. Once again, the verse 32: “Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.”

What is shaking in your world? Probably your future, your faith, your family, or finances? It’s a shaky world out there. If so, you are not alone. Hope is hard to come by these days. Many people believe this world is as good as it gets. And let’s face it. It’s not that good. For example: According to the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) 1.2 million adults attempted suicide and 45, 979 people died in the year 2020 in USA. One adult every 11 minutes. Are we not prone to depletion? How often do you find yourself thinking, “I am out of all solutions or there is no way this will work, or I can’t fix it?”

But the question is, “**Is God in this anywhere?**” What happens to us is: We are focusing on our problems and resources. We aren’t focusing on God. We aren’t consulting God or not turning to God. We limit our world to our strength, wisdom, and power. No wonder we are in a tailspin.

Could you use some unshakable faith and hope in God? Like we have heard from the other two scripture readings for today. **What is faith?** In the letter to the Hebrews we have heard, **“Faith is the realization of what is hoped for, and evidence of the things not seen.”**

Salty sailors would urge you to hook on to something hidden and solid. Don't trust the buoy on the water. Don't trust the sailors in the other boat. In fact, don't even trust your own boat. **When the storm hits, trust no one, but God.** Paul says, “We have put our hope in the living God” (1 Tim. 4: 10). People of faith make daily decisions to secure their anchors in God.

**And how do we create God's Kingdom here on earth?** The last part of this passage tells us: **“Be dressed, ready, and keep your lamps burning like servants waiting for their master to return. When the master finds them how vigilant, he girds himself to serve you.”**

When you serve the people around you with love and humility, you are serving Jesus. Then you will find your true identity, purpose and joy, in caring for others just as Jesus cared for them.

Many years ago, St. Mother Teresa met with Dr. Robert Schuller, the pastor of the Crystal Cathedral in California. (Now it is a Catholic Church.) He was in awe of Mother Teresa's work to the poor in Calcutta, India. Dr. Schuller asked the Mother Teresa for some wisdom intending to start similar work for the poor.

Mather Teresa told Dr. Schuller, **“Be all, and only for Jesus. Let Him use you without consulting you first.”** Dr. Schuller so moved by what she said that had her words engraved into a plaque which he hung on his office wall.

“Be all, and only for Jesus. Let Him use you without consulting you first.” That's what it means to be dressed ready for service. What would you change in your life to be ready for service? What fears would you have to overcome? What priorities would you have to change? And what could God do through you without consulting you first?

Yes, that's a scary question. Jesus knew it would be. So, remember his words that are true for us today as they were to his first disciples long ago. **“Do not be afraid, Little Flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.”**

Hebrews 11: 6 says: “God ... **rewards** those who diligently seek for him.” Step away, dear friends, from the puny pursuit of possessions, recognition, and seek your king.

**What is the reward?** Nothing short of the heart of Jesus. “And as the Spirit of the Lord works within you, you become more and more like Jesus,” (2 Cor. 3: 18). Can you think of grater gift than to be like Jesus? **He loves you the way you are. But refuses to leave you that way. He wants you to be like Jesus.**

