

## Be Prepared!

19<sup>th</sup> Week of Ordinary Time – August 7, 2016-Luke 12:32-48

When we think of all the things we prepare for each day, the list is a bit daunting. We prepare to go to work, get kids off to school or summer activities. We prepare for dinner. We prepare homework if we are in school. We prepare for vacations. The list is endless. But do we consciously prepare for our eternal life? This is the very thing Jesus is saying this week in the gospel. **“Be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.”**

Let's be quite frank here, we are talking about our death. We are talking about our eternal life with God. Jesus reminds us first and foremost that being prepared means not worrying, not fearing what will happen because God will give to us something that can never be lost. **“Do not be afraid any longer, little flock, for your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom. Provide money bags for yourselves that do not wear out, an inexhaustible treasure in heaven that no thief can reach nor moth destroy.”** This is a pretty big promise! However, Jesus' reassurance to not worry does not mean we do nothing. We have some work to do in our preparation for eternal life with God.

Jesus says, **“Gird your loins and light your lamps and be like servants who await their master's return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants who the master finds vigilant on his arrival. Amen, I say to you, he will gird himself, have them recline at table, and proceed to wait on them.”**

To be clear, we don't earn eternal salvation. We have it. It is a gift. But Jesus is saying that any disciple of his must embrace this gift and the grace that comes with it, using it for the betterment of the world. We don't get to sit back consuming the gifts, the talents and the treasure for ourselves. There is a whole world out there. We must utilize our lives for the Kingdom. This is the preparedness we must embrace, to live our very gifted lives in vigilant service to others.

Jesus is very harsh on what will become of those who do not embrace this life. **“That servant who knew his master's will but did not make preparations nor act in accord with his will shall be beaten severely; and the servant who was ignorant of his master's will but acted in a way deserving of a severe beating shall be beaten only lightly.”** This image is a bit scary. It reflects the incredible responsibility we have as his followers.

Jesus says, **“Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more.”** Jesus will ask for an accounting of what we have done. Consider the following: How much have I been given in this life? How blessed am I? If I am blessed, what have I done with my gifts? Am I prepared to meet Jesus?

Blessings!  
Sue Schettler

