

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

- Foolishness is a matter of priorities...of having the wrong priorities.
 - But wisdom...is a matter of putting first things first.
 - And prudence...
 - which is really the practical side of wisdom...
 - it's all about making a plan...to pursue and attain...
 - all those things that matter most...
 - the things that really last...
 - like the eternal life of heaven.
 - So we need to prudently prepare.
- “*But,*” some say,
 - “*God is love and I’m basically a good person...so I’ll deal with my faith later.*”
 - *I’ll pray some other time...because...right now...*
 - *there’s just too much going on...God understands.”*
 - Well...not sweating it...
 - when it comes to preparing for our final exam...
 - that’s not exactly faith.
 - It’s actually a sin called presumption...
 - of presuming upon God’s grace...
 - which really means...that we try to use our God...
 - rather than worship and serve Him.
 - Now...Jesus is absolutely pleased...
 - when we trust that He will forgive...
 - our best...but bungled attempts...
 - at trying to do His will.
 - But when we blow off preparation all together...
 - because we expect Him to take care of everything...
 - God Himself is not amused.
- If fear of the Lord...is the beginning of wisdom...
 - then forgetting about the Lord and His ways for us...
 - that’s the pinnacle of foolishness.
 - So is forgetting that we are not the Lord ourselves...
 - or forgetting that this life will not go on forever.
 - It’s hard to believe...
 - but eventually time will run out...
 - for ourselves...for our country...for our world.
 - And...despite doing really well...
 - in this pandemic and bad economy...
 - someday...even Amazon will cease to exist!
 - Jesus said it many times...that though this world and its affairs...
 - seem so real...so very urgent...
 - one day...it will all be gone.
 - Jesus will return to claim His Bride.

- And we'll either be caught with oil in our lamp...
 - meaning prepared and eager to see Him...
 - or it's going to be...
 - like the surprise of rude of guests...
 - who show up early for dinner...
 - while the house is still a mess.
 - But this time...Jesus is not coming to dine...He's coming first to judge.
- I think we've all had the dream...
 - of being back in school...
 - and having to take a really important exam...
 - for which we are totally unprepared.
 - Well...maybe that dream...
 - like the parable in our Gospel...
 - is meant to be a warning.
 - Because...whether or not...
 - we are the generation...to witness the end of the world...
 - each one of us...
 - will experience...the end of our own personal world.
 - Jesus will come for us...maybe even suddenly...
 - and at the time of His choosing...not our own.
- I want to share with you a quote from St. Faustina...
 - whom Jesus appeared to for years...
 - and gave us that beautiful image of Divine Mercy.
 - Jesus told her:
 - *before I come as a just Judge, I first open wide the door of My mercy. He who refuses to pass through the door of My mercy must pass through the door of My justice ... You will prepare the world for My final coming.*
 - Jesus also spoke to her about a global event...
 - that would precede His final coming...
 - something called the Warning...or the Illumination.
 - It's a time when the Lord will pause this world...
 - and all of us will stand before Him...
 - to see clearly...the state of our souls.
 - This will be a moment of supreme grace...
 - and an opportunity for the entire world...
 - to finally know...not only Jesus Christ...that He's real...
 - but most importantly...
 - the offer of His mercy...His salvation...His love.
 - This event is so important...because right now...
 - as a result of our personal sin...and that of society as a whole...
 - our minds are just too darkened...to recognize His truth...
 - our hearts have grown cold...to the warmth of His love.
 - But for a few moments...the veil will be lifted...
 - and all people...will clearly see.

- Now...we are not bound...to believe in this devotion...
 - but based on it...
 - St. John Paul II...
 - elevated the Sunday after Easter...
 - as Divine Mercy Sunday.
 - I can't think of any other Sunday...
 - that is set aside as the result of private revelation.
 - That should stress its importance.
 - And really...has there ever been a time...
 - when something like this...
 - was more needed than now?
 - I pray that it happens soon!
 - Our world needs the wakeup call.
 - I need it! Perhaps you do too.
- As for the timing...
 - many have speculated about the end times...
 - and specifically when Jesus will come in glory.
 - They've poured over Sacred Scripture...
 - trying to know...
 - exactly what will take place...
 - and if it's already started.
 - And our eyes should be on the lookout for the Bridegroom's return...
 - but being too preoccupied with the details...
 - that's simply a pious form...of sleeping on the job.
 - In the end...what matters...
 - is that...the end...is in fact always near.
 - Our role is not to calculate the day nor the hour...
 - but to prepare for the day...by the hour.
 - If we always live ready...
 - with extra oil in our lamps...
 - never so absorbed in worldly affairs...
 - that we are not at least watching for the Lord...
 - out of the corner of our eye...
 - well then we will never be caught off guard.
 - And we'll still be able to enjoy every aspect of this life...
 - while using it...as a springboard to the next.
 -
- So the door of Divine Mercy is open...but we are on the threshold of the door of justice.
 - The message to prepare...
 - could not be more urgent.
 - So may Jesus illuminate our souls...to any unconfessed sin...
 - and help us make necessary preparations...
 - for He comes in glory...and soon!