



19th SUNDAY of ORDINARY TIME ***YEAR C – August 11, 2019***

Frank Kendig and Richard Hutton have written a book called “Life Spans, or How Long Things Last.” In it you discover some interesting trivial facts.

For example, you discover that the average life of baseball shoes worn by your favorite major league star is only two months.

Even more surprising, you discover that the average life of the stick used by your favorite hockey player is only two games.

You also discover that the average life of a soldier's boots in peacetime is fifteen months, while in wartime it drops to three months. While the lifespans of certain things are shorter than we might think, the lifespans of other things are quite long.

For example, a beer can left behind by someone camping on a mountain will still be there 80 years from now. A leather shoe left behind at the same site will be there 50 years from now. And finally, the average rock that protrudes from the ground will still be there a thousand years from now.

But whatever it is -- a hockey stick, a beer can, or a rock, the authors assure us that it will eventually disappear. The point is - nothing on earth will last forever.

What is true of all these things is also true of human beings. We too will eventually disappear from the face of the earth. None of us will be here on earth forever.

And that's precisely the point that Jesus makes in today's gospel. That's why he warns us with words that are borrowed from a different culture and a different time.

He says, "Light your lamps and be prepared. For at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come for you." For some people, he will come today. For some people it will be a long, long time from now. For all of us it will happen one day.

When will that be? Jesus says, “It will happen at a time we least expect.” - a sobering thought indeed. The message from our Lord is clear, “Be prepared.” Be prepared today and tomorrow and every day. Our Lord’s message is the same as it was last week.

Jesus does not intend to scare us. Crossing the bridge of death can be scary in many ways. In spite of that, Jesus tells us, “Do not be afraid.” There is nothing to fear. Be prepared and enjoy life. You are created for happiness here on earth and eternal happiness in heaven.

For a few moments in silence, reflect on this, “How do you prepare for death?” And if you were to die tonight, *are you prepared?*”

**Now I lay me down to sleep,
I pray the Lord my soul to keep:
If I die before I wake,
I pray the Lord my soul to take.**