

32ND SUNDAY IN OT—Year A—M11-D08-Y2020

01. ***Live each day as if it were your last—and one day you'll be right.***
This phrase is something I heard an Irish comedian once say in a stand-up routine. The first part of the phrase I was familiar with: **live each day as if it were your last** — but the second part of the phrase: ***and one day you'll be right*** was added by the comedian for comic effect.
02. Although the humour in the phrase may be questionable—the message was very clear—and very relevant for today's Gospel. **Live each day as if it were your last—for one day IT WILL BE YOUR LAST.**
03. As we approach the end of the liturgical year, and the beginning of Advent—the readings tend to reflect **the coming of Our Lord at the end of time** — when Jesus will return to earth a second time—**but in a very DIFFERENT WAY than the first time He came to earth.**
04. For the first coming of Jesus into the world happened **in relative obscurity—in silence and hiddenness** — and so, only a few were truly able to truly recognize His coming among us as man.
05. But the SECOND COMING of Jesus into the world **will be very different** — **it will not be a silent and hidden event—but will be a global event of unprecedented power, glory, and hope**—one where there will be NO FAILURE WHATSOEVER to recognize His coming among us.
06. And so, the readings are warning us to be ready for this awesome event—**because we don't know the day or the hour when it will occur.**
07. But the truth is that **even if we're not present here on earth when this spectacular event occurs**—none of us really know the day or the hour when **we will have to personally face Our Lord, the Bridegroom Himself.**
08. And so, the phrase ***live each day as if it were your last*** is a powerful **idea by which to govern one's life**—and by which to prepare

ourselves to meet the Lord. Because as wise as it is to live **one day at a time—it's EVEN MORE WISE for us to live each day as if it were our last.**

09. For if any of us knew that today was our last day on earth—how many of us would **still hold onto the grudges that we MAY be clinging to** — how many of us would still **treat the possessions in our life with greater attention and affection than the people in our lives** — how many of us would **still be concerned with the state of our finances more than the state of our souls** — and how many of us would take for granted the things that many in our society take for granted **day after day.**
10. And so, the readings today are warning us **not to be OBSESSED with death**—but to be PREPARED for it—to be prepared to meet the Lord face to face—whether that takes place at the end of time, or at the end of OUR TIME here on earth.
11. The notion of **Jesus as a bridegroom is ALSO a very powerful idea by which to govern our life**—and by which to prepare ourselves to meet the Lord face to face. For throughout the Old Testament, **Yahweh often refers to Himself as a bridegroom in relation to His People** — just as throughout the Gospels, Jesus often refers to Himself as a **bridegroom in relation to each of His Disciples, in relation to each of our souls—and not just A bridegroom, but THE Bridegroom of our souls.**
12. And so, each of us, **NO MATTER WHAT OUR GENDER,** is invited into this **close, tender, spousal relationship with Our Lord**—a relationship that should be the focal point of our **ENTIRE EXISTENCE—a relationship that should be the standard for ALL THE OTHER significant relationships in our lives.**
13. And the degree to which we are invested in this relationship **IS THE DEGREE to which we will be ready to meet our Lord.**
14. For as THE bridegroom of our souls—Jesus gives Himself to us **with TOTAL ABANDON—holding nothing back. And the challenge for**

each of us is to give ourselves to Him with the SAME total abandon—holding nothing back.

15. In marriage, when one spouse gives 100% of themselves to the relationship—but the other spouse only gives 25, 50, or even 75 percent—that marriage will eventually fail—**because a marriage can only work when BOTH spouses make a TOTAL GIFT of themselves to the other—each giving 100% of themselves to the relationship.**
16. It's the same in our relationship with Jesus. He ALWAYS GIVES a 100% of Himself to us—being **OVERWHELMINGLY generous to us** by offering us everything He has to offer—**ALL that He is and ALL that He has—day after day—moment after moment.** But our response to this total offer of Self from Jesus—this total Gift of Himself to us—is often less than adequate.
17. In fact, one of my on-going petitions in personal prayer is **for the grace to give myself completely to Our Lord—just as He gives Himself completely to me.** Because I know that I'm not anywhere near there yet — and because I know **this is the best preparation to meet Him face to face at the end of MY time here on earth.**
18. And actually, this is **the oil in the bridesmaids' lamps in today's Gospel—the oil needed to prepare for His coming** — because those who have made the Lord the centre and focus of their lives, **above anyone and anything else—those who have invested all that they are, and all that they have into their relationship with Him—**are those who will be MOST prepared to meet Him when He comes.
19. Sometime ago, I was pulled into a discussion where the topic was: **if someone has had more than one spouse during their lifetime—what will their relationship be with each of those spouses in Heaven.** I was trying to explain that in Heaven—we won't have the same kind of spousal relationship with our partners that we had here on earth—because **in Heaven, God Himself will be our Spouse.**
20. We will still have a special bond and friendship in Heaven with ALL those with whom we shared a special bond here on earth—**but only**

God Himself will be our ONE TRUE SPOUSE—as well as the focal point of ALL our relationships in Heaven.

21. And this spousal relationship with God shouldn't just take place in Heaven—this spousal relationship with God should begin **EVEN NOW**—because **Jesus invites each of us into this kind of tender and close friendship with Him even NOW** — coming to us every moment of every day — **giving Himself to each of us (again) with TOTAL ABANDON**—and inviting us to give ourselves to Him with the same **TOTAL ABANDON**.
22. And, again, this is the best way to prepare to meet God face to face—and the best way to live each day as if it were our last. For Jesus, the Bridegroom of our souls, **is pure selfless, love itself—and He can only be FULLY united and wedded to pure selfless love.**
23. And so, we not only have to learn to love—we have to learn to love to the point that we become **love itself — to the point that we love like GOD LOVES: with total abandon, holding back** — only then will our lamps be filled with oil—and we will be ready to meet the Bridegroom of our souls and be united to Him forever.
24. For on that day, the day when our time here on earth comes to an end, we will see **with ABSOLUTE CLARITY** that which we can only see partially now with the eyes of faith—**the truth of God's infinite, selfless, and personal love for each of us** — and we will want **NOTHING MORE** than to be like Him, and to be one with Him — **nothing more than to give ourselves COMPLETELY to Him—just He gives Himself completely to us. AMEN.**