

*Homily for Friday of the 21<sup>st</sup> Week in Ordinary Time  
St. Thomas the Apostle Parish – West Springfield, Massachusetts  
August 30, 2019*



Scripture Readings: 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 ✦ Psalm 97: 1-2b, 5-6, 10-12 ✦ Matthew 25:1-13

**J**esus tells us in our parable today that we must be prepared for the Kingdom of God, lest we be locked out because we have forgotten to prepare ourselves in the proper way. Jesus' parable teaches us an important lesson that is stated very simply and explicitly: We must be prepared to enter the Kingdom of God. Our preparation is not a task to be performed or a list of requirements that need to be fulfilled by a particular point in time. Instead, our preparation is a way of life, to be lived constantly.



As long as we put our relationship with God and our answer to God's call to love on a "list of things to do", we will fail to allow God's love to transform our hearts and our lives.

Every day of our lives on earth should be filled with expressions of love and concern for others, with acts of love for the needy, with praise and thanksgiving for God. ✦

