

33RD SUND. ORD (A)

AM I A FAITHFUL SERVANT?

The time that the Lord will come is unknown to everyone. But whether we like it or not, it will catch up with all of us. Once a while it flashes through our mind, but most of the time it is when something happens that it dawns on us to think about it.

The believers in Thessalonica were eagerly waiting for the coming of the Lord to the extent that some of them stopped working. But St. Paul told them that there was no need for them to worry about times and seasons. They were to do what was required of them. The important thing was for them to be faithful to their vocations.

This is what the first reading and the gospel draw our attention to. The first reading describes a worthy and faithful woman whom the husband can rely on. Her value is far beyond pearls. She brings the husband good and not evil, and she is hard-working. She is also generous and helps the poor and the needy.

The gospel gives us two faithful servants and one who is unfaithful. The faithful ones took risks to invest the money given them and they got profit. They got more than they thought. The unfaithful one lost even the one he had.

Each one of us has been given a charism, or a gift to be used to serve others in preparation for the coming of the Lord. How have we used those gifts? The first reading talks about a worthy wife who does good to her husband, so wives here present, can we use the description for you too? Wisdom tells us that charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain. Are you always thinking about external beauty, or inner purity?

Husbands, do you support your wives to be able to give their best at home? The psalmist talks about the man who fears the Lord will be blessed. His wife will be like a fruitful vine and children like shoots of olive around his table. He will be happy and prosper. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

Can I give a proper account for all that I have received from the Lord? I have life and strength. I have been given the opportunity to be a christian and for that matter a priest; I have the privilege of bringing Jesus to His followers, have access to His precious Body and Blood. Through me He can forgive the sins of others; I have the other sacraments to help me live a faithful life in my vocation. What can I tell God in case He asks me now to give an account of all that He has given me?

You have the privilege of being a father and mother, and through you God has brought people into the world. You have been blessed with the opportunity to be a christian, and have access to almost all the sacraments. Maybe you have had the chance to be a head of a group of people or workers. You have the vocation of caring for the sick and the infirm, the old and less privilege ones. Are you happy that you did what you did, or you are doing everything for the love of God? Can you also say to God that I have doubled what you gave me?

How faithful are we in all that we do? Are we faithful as christians, priests, lay faithful, husbands and wives, parents and children, social workers, managers of businesses, students, parishioners of St. Mary Star of the Sea? Are we faithful parishioners?

We are to take the risk of defending our faith no matter the situation, and we shall get more from the Lord. We will definitely pass through fire and water, but we will not be burnt or drowned. Instead of being burnt, we will be purified by the fire; instead of getting drowned, the water will give us life. We should have good intention for doing everything that we do. The good wife was not thinking about anything but to be faithful and sincere; the first two servants did not think about receiving any reward from the master, but at the end they were rewarded for their faithfulness and handwork. What is preventing us from being faithful servants?

32ND SUND. ORD. (A)

SEEK THE WISDOM OF THE LORD

Wisdom is personified and presented as a lady waiting for anybody who seeks her. All those who seek her will find her, because it is not difficult to find her. To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding.

Who is this wisdom? Christ is the wisdom. He is the one the believers in Thessalonica were waiting for. He is also the groom whom the ten virgins were going to meet. This was explained by St. Paul.

“While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, we are preaching a crucified Christ: to the Jews an obstacle they cannot get over, to the gentiles foolishness, but to those who have been called , whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is both the power of God and the wisdom of God,” (1Cor. 1:22-24).

People, day and night, are seeking all kinds of wisdom from every where; from books, and 'wise' people. We seek worldly wisdom, to be able to achieve greatness on the earth. This wisdom is imperfect because it does not offer us the ultimate satisfaction we need. It does not help us to live as true Christians now, and does not prepare us well for the life to come. But to find God's wisdom is more precious than silver and gold.

What do we seek as Christians? Worldly wisdom or the wisdom of God? We are waiting for the coming of the Lord one day, and to find Christ we have to understand His teachings, and to understand Him we need wisdom. We need to discern by the power of the Spirit to know what to do. We have to look beyond today, and focus on what will happen in the future.

The ten virgins, we heard about in the gospel, were invited to meet the bridegroom. They knew the day but not the time. Time is not ours. It belongs to God. He decides what is going to happen the next moment. So to be able to move according to His plans then we have to seek His wisdom.

Like the virgins, all of us have been given the opportunity to acquire the graces we need to welcome the Lord into our lives, but sometimes we are distracted and we forget about what we actually need that we should look for. We are not ready to meet the Lord. Were the five wise ones selfish for not sharing their oil with the other five? No. It is a lesson that grace cannot be shared with anybody. I can benefit from your gift or charism, but not your grace received from God.

Our attention is on how to acquire worldly wisdom to be able to outwit the other person to get more money, to cheat, to be promoted in business, to be famous among friends, to dominate, and show power. We hear about internet fraud, people adding some zeros to a figure to be able to acquire millions of dollars. Most of the time this worldly wisdom leads us into prison, or lose all that we have.

But to find the Lord is to get everything. As the first reading is saying, “he who is vigilant on her (wisdom) will soon be free from care”. The five wise virgins slept without worrying about when the bridegroom was coming. How is our faith helping us to stay awake and wait for the Lord? “Stay awake and pray not to be put to the test, the spirit is willing but the human nature is weak” (Mk.14:39).

Can we say that the virgins were young? May be. So their situation teaches us the young ones a lot of lessons. We have to think more about how to know the Lord. We should learn how to pray on our own, and to know the stories in the bible; stories which will teach us wisdom and understanding. We should learn how to be wise in the Lord, and not what the world offers. The ten were all invited, but later, the five foolish ones were told, “I do not know you;” why?

29TH SUND. ORD. (A)

I HAVE CALLED YOU BY NAME; YOU ARE MINE
TE HE LLAMADO POR NOMBRE; ERES MIO

"Y ahora, así dice el Señor, Él que te creó, Jacob, que te formo, Israel: No temas, porque yo te he redimido; te he llamado por nombre, eres mío "(Isaías 43: 1). "Así que no hay que jactarse de seres humanos; todo te pertenece, ya sea Pablo o Apolos, o Cefas, el mundo, la vida o la muerte, el presente o el futuro: todos te pertenecen para ti; pero usted pertenece a Cristo y Cristo le pertenece a Dios "(1Cor. 3: 21-23).

"And now, thus says the Lord, He who created you, Jacob, who formed you, Israel: Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine," (Isa. 43:1). "So there is to be no boasting about human beings; everything belongs to you, whether it is Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, the world, life or death, the present or the future - all belong to you; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God," (1Cor. 3:21-23).

En la primera lectura, escuchamos que Dios escogió a Ciro para ser rey para ser utilizado para su propósito, es decir, permitir que los israelitas regresen a sus patrias. Le dio poder para abrir y cerrar, que nadie podría contrarrestarlo. Aunque no podía

conocer a Dios todo lo que podía lograr vino de Dios. A través de Cyrus la gente conocería a Dios quien no tiene igual.

In the first reading, we heard that God chose Cyrus to be king to be used for His purpose, that is, to allow the Israelites return to their homelands. He gave him power to open and close, which no one could counteract it. Even though he could not know God everything he could accomplish came from God. Through Cyrus people would know God who has no equal.

En el evangelio, Jesús respondió a la pregunta de si pagar impuestos o no pidiendo una moneda. Y como tenía la imagen de César, preguntó ellos para darle a él lo que le pertenece, y a Dios lo que le pertenece Dios. La pregunta ahora es '¿qué le pertenece a Dios?'

In the gospel, Jesus responded to the question of whether to pay tax or not by asking for a coin. And since it had the image of Caesar, He asked them to give to him what belongs to him, and to God what belongs to God. The question now is 'what belongs to God?'. .

La respuesta simple es que todo en el mundo le pertenece a Dios. Pero a menudo reclamamos la propiedad de muchas cosas en el mundo. Olvidamos eso incluso si reclamamos la propiedad de las propiedades, pertenecemos a Dios. Nos creó a su imagen y semejanza, "Dios creó al hombre a la imagen de sí mismo, a imagen de Dios, Él lo creó, varón y hembra. los creó "(Génesis 1:27). Entonces, si la moneda tiene la imagen de César, y tengo la imagen de Dios, y entonces le pertenecemos a él.

The simple answer is that everything in the world belongs to God. But we often claim ownership of many things in the world. We forget that even if we claim ownership of properties, we belong to God. He created us in His own image and likeness, "God created man in the image of Himself, in the image of God He created him, male and female He created them," (Gen. 1:27). So if the coin had the image of Caesar, you and I have the image of God, and so we belong to Him.

Como Dios escogió a Ciro para ser un instrumento, también Pablo en la segunda lectura, está diciendo a los fieles en Tesalónica que Dios los había escogido para ser de su propiedad. De la misma manera, todos hemos sido elegidos por Dios y nosotros pertenece

a él Él quiere usarnos como instrumentos para llevar la salvación a el mundo entero. Lo que sea que podamos hacer no es por nuestra propia fuerza, sino por Su poder, mientras sostenía la mano derecha de Ciro para someter naciones y descubrir los lomos de los reyes.

As God chose Cyrus to be an instrument, so Paul in the second reading, is telling the faithful in Thessalonica that God had chosen them to be His own. In the same manner, we all have been chosen by God and we belong to Him. He wants to use us as instruments to bring salvation to the whole world. Whatever we can do is not by our own strength, but by His power, as He held the right hand of Cyrus to subdue nations and uncover the loins of kings.

Todos y cada uno ha sido llamado por su nombre. Dios nos conoce a través de el y mediante. Los corintios se aferraban a Pedro, Pablo o Apolos, pero Pablo les dijo que todo les pertenecía pero que pertenecían a Cristo y Cristo perteneció a Dios. Todo termina en el, puerta de entrada a Dios.

Each and everyone has been called by name. God knows us through and through. The Corinthian were clinging to Peter or Paul or Apollos, but Paul told them that everything belonged to them but they belonged to Christ and Christ belonged to God. Everything ends up at the doorstep of God.

Si ese es el caso, entonces ¿de qué podemos jactarnos? Poder, o riqueza, o fuerza, o sabiduría, o conocimiento, o belleza, o éxito en la vida? Todo proviene de Él a través de Él y para Él. Esto significa que siempre debemos apuntar a hacer lo que le plazca. Nuevamente, antes que nosotras cosas o tomar cualquier decisión, debemos dejar que Su voluntad nos guíe, como Jesús rezó en el jardín, "Padre mío, si es posible, déjame tener de esta copa; pero no como quiero, sino como quieras "(Mt.26:39b).

If that is the case, then what can we boast of? Power, or wealth, or strength, or wisdom, or knowledge, or beauty, or success in life? Everything comes from Him through Him and for Him. This means that we should always aim at doing what pleases him. Again, before we do things or take any decision, we should let His will lead us, as Jesus prayed in the garden, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not as I will, but as you will," (Mt. 26:39b).

Si tenemos la imagen de Dios y le pertenecemos a Él, entonces no podemos decidir qué hacer con nuestro cuerpo al contrario de lo que Él quiere que lo usemos. Tampoco podemos decidir poner fin a nuestras vidas o las vidas de las personas si nacido o no nacido.

If we bear God's image, and that we belong to Him, then we cannot decide what to do with our body contrary to what He wants us to use it for. Also we cannot decide to end our lives or the lives of people whether born or unborn.

El evangelio también nos recuerda cómo debemos contribuir al bienestar de nuestra nación y el mundo. Cualquier regalo que hayamos recibido debe ser utilizado para el beneficio de todos. Esto se debe a que nos felicitamos mutuamente. Cada uno tiene la imagen de Dios y debe ser respetado, no importa a quién son, o de qué parte del mundo. Todos tienen algo que ofrecer a la gloria de Dios Aunque debemos servir a nuestro país, lealtad a Dios debe ser lo primero.

The gospel also reminds us of how we should contribute to the welfare of our nation and the world. Whatever gift we have received should be used to the benefit of all. This is because we complement each other. Each has the image of God and must be respected, no matter who they are, or from which part of the world. Everybody has something to offer to the glory of God. Even though we are to serve our country, allegiance to God should come first.

BE WISE IN THE LORD

Wisdom is personified. She is available to all who seek her