

## Homily by Fr. Anthony Davis

**“Stay awake and be ready! For you do not know on what day your Lord will come”.**

November 8, 2020

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

WIS 6:12-16; 1 THES 4:13-18; Matt. 25:1-13

Are you missing out on what's most important in life? What good is a life-jacket left on the shore when the boat is sinking? In other words, Being unprepared can lead to unnecessary trouble and even disaster! Indeed, Jesus' story of ten single ladies waiting for a wedding procession in the middle of the night seems strange to most westerners today. But culturally, Jesus' audience knew all too well how easily this could happen to them.

Can you imagine the frustration travelers might experience when going abroad and finding out that they can't get into some country because they don't have the right visa or a valid passport?

*Hence today, Jesus warns us that there are consequences for being unprepared to meet the Lord.* That is to say that there are certain things you cannot obtain at the last moment. For example, students cannot prepare for their exams when the day of testing is already upon them. A person cannot get the right kind of character, strength, and skill required for a task at hand unless they already possess it, such as a captain with courage and nautical skills who must steer a ship through a dangerous storm at sea.

It feels to me like the obvious question from today's Gospel reading is “What does Jesus mean by being awake and what does wisdom have to do with it? I think it is clear that it is not literally “stay awake.” Some might say simply that we need to mind our “p’s and q’s” and celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation regularly in order that our souls are ready for heaven when we die. I wonder though, if there isn’t a deeper invitation.

Perhaps an invitation to awaken to ourselves, not just our sins and woundedness, but our gifts and calls. Bring those into the light as well!!

*Hence, to be awake, in my mind and heart, is to live from that truest part of ourselves, from our hearts. And, from that place, we will necessarily grow in wisdom and meet Wisdom, meet Christ. How is Jesus inviting us to stay awake this day?*

How is Wisdom inviting us to stay awake to ourselves and God in each moment; not for something or some time to come but to live a Christ-filled, heaven on earth, life today? When the Lord Jesus comes to lead you to his heavenly banquet will you be ready to hear his voice

and follow? Our eternal welfare depends on our hearing, and many have trained themselves to not hear. We will not be prepared to meet the Lord, face to face, when he calls us on the Day of Judgment, unless we listen to him today. The Lord invites us to feast at his heavenly banquet table. Are you ready?

Therefore, "Stay awake and be ready! For you do not know on what day your Lord will come".