

THE 19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

LIVING READY FOR THE MASTER'S RETURN

Luke 12:35-40

"Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit... You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."

If you knew—absolutely knew—that Jesus would knock at your door tonight, how would you live the next few hours? Would you finally forgive that person you've been avoiding? Would you turn off the noise and pray with a heart on fire? Would you rush to confession? Would you put away your phone, look your family in the eyes, and tell them you love them?

The point is this—Jesus is coming. The only question is: will you be ready when He does?

This Gospel explodes our comfortable illusion that we have "plenty of time." We tell ourselves: I'll pray more when life slows down. I'll deal with that sin when I'm stronger. I'll get serious about God... someday. But Jesus doesn't speak about "someday." He says now. Be dressed for action. Light your lamps. Stay awake.

In the ancient world, "be dressed for action" meant tightening your belt, securing your clothing, and being ready to move without delay—no stumbling, no hesitation. Lamps lit meant you could see through the darkness and be ready for whoever approached. Spiritually, it means living with an alert soul—focused, watchful, expecting the knock at the door. But here is the real question—what if we are not ready? What if the oil in our lamps has run dry because we have been consumed with the temporary, the trivial, the urgent, but not the eternal? This Gospel is not here to frighten us—it's here to wake us up. There is nothing more tragic than being caught unprepared for the most important meeting of your life.

So, what does readiness look like?

It means living each day so that if Jesus called you home tonight, there would be nothing you still needed to surrender to Him—no prayer you've been putting off, no act of obedience you've been delaying, no "yes" you've been holding back.

It means keeping your heart clean through regular confession—not just because you're afraid of sin, although we all should be, but because when your heart is free, you can run with joy to Jesus instead of hiding in shame.

It means a prayer life that is alive—daily, intentional prayer that fuels your soul like oil in a lamp. Without prayer, the flame goes out.

It means reconciliation—releasing grudges and bitterness so they don't slow you down when the time comes to run toward Christ.

It means loosening your grip on the things of this world—possessions, habits, comforts—so that Heaven feels like home, not like a disruption.

The truth is, every day is a dress rehearsal for eternity. And the person who is ready for death is also the one most alive today—because they live with nothing between them and God, nothing left unsaid, nothing left undone, nothing left unoffered. They live free, joyful, and unafraid, because they know their life is already in His hands.

So, let us hear Jesus' words as both a warning and a promise: "Be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."

And when He does—may He find us not only awake, but filled with joyful anticipation, our lamps blazing, our hearts burning with love, and our souls ready to run into God's embrace.