

**32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time “A”  
2017**

Remember the year 1999 and how for months we were hearing about what was going to happen when Y2K hit? Ushering in the third millennium sure meant different things to different people. There were those who spent \$75K so they could fly back in time on the Concorde and hit the year 2000 more than once. There were those who thought all computers would crash and a whole host of those who thought the end of the world was coming – or that aliens would finally make contact.

That whole craziness is not isolated to the turn of the century – every so often you hear people calling for the end of time. Sometimes they tie it to religion sometimes not. But it’s always a foreboding message that I need to change my life.

This end of time preparation is nothing new to us who are Catholic. Every year the Church year ends and begins with readings calling us to reflect on the Second Coming of Christ. They’re not meant to scare us – rather to tell us to wake up – be prepared – stay alert! And that’s a good thing – because we can get lax in how we live our Christianity – so a wakeup call doesn’t hurt every now and then.

It’s important to be prepared. The parable makes that clear – reminding us that we can’t borrow another person’s preparedness. Five of the maidens came prepared – five didn’t – and it may seem harsh that they didn’t share – but like many things in life they really couldn’t share their readiness.

Just like a person who lives a self-centered and selfish life cannot borrow another’s faith or inner strength when a crisis hits. Or a schoolmate who refuses to study cannot borrow another’s knowledge to get through life. Some things can’t be borrowed. Therefore everyone must do their own preparation.

Remember Chicken Little – a piece of bark falls on her head and the whole sky is falling. She tells her friends they all set off to see the King. They are prepared for the worst. The only thing this paranoid little chicken didn’t prepare for is the best. The sky never fell.

Our doomsday prophets that are always preparing for the worst are our current versions of Chicken Little. But for us it must be different. We must be prepared for the best! If you see a sign that something’s coming – let’s just assume that God is about to begin something wonderful. As Christians we’re called to a life of expectation – and according to Jesus we must expect the best. He calls us to join him in a great celebration.

The unknown hour of the celebrations beginning is not to be a dreadful thing that we must live in fear of. All Jesus is asking us to do is to trust – to have faith in the only thing that matters to him. And if we do that – if we have faith in the Kingdom that is to come – then we will be prepared.

In that Kingdom that Jesus calls us to – he’ll burst into the room with a loaf of bread under one arm and a bottle of wine under the other and he’ll say, “Let’s celebrate!”

We must have faith in that Kingdom – in the words of Jesus – and we must also have faith in each other as we prepare for the celebration to come. None of us want to miss that moment.

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