

29th Week in OT Cycle B

Weekday 2/Tuesday

Romans 5:12, 15, 17-21, Luke 12:35-38

In a way, our Lord's words speak for themselves this morning: "**Blessed are those slaves whom the Master finds alert when he comes...**" Perhaps the first thought that crosses your mind is similar to the one that crosses mine: "Oh yeah, better make sure I don't lose the focus of doing what I can to build up the kingdom in the ways that have been entrusted to me." But even with that, *we all get distracted!*

We all VEAR a little off course along the journey of life. It's gonna happen - Jesus today is simply reminding us to be conscious of what ultimately matters in this life; namely **LIVING OUT FAITHFULLY THE STATE OF LIFE WE PROFESSED THROUGH THE VOCATION WE HAVE EMBRACED, be it it married life, single life, or religious life,** along with loving God and our neighbor all along the journey right till the end.

In the Scriptures we're told: "*a man is remembered by his end...*"

Many years ago, I was informed that a 78-year-old priest had suddenly passed away. I thought to myself: "Not bad, it's a full life."

And then I find out that **he died of a MASSIVE heart attack in Las Vegas while gambling...**

This one was told to me by my grandmother:

40 some odd years ago, a priest in Québec who was the pastor of a small town community in his early 50s was found dead. Once again, death: it happens every day, except: he was found in some dodgy motel suite just on the edge of town. *Violently stabbed to death in bed...*

"A man is remembered by his end by family, friends, and others who hear the tale of how they died – but that's not the end of it..." For stories like how these two priests came to their end leaves all of us feeling a bit disconcerted in light of our Lord's words to us this morning.

"BE DRESSED FOR ACTION AND HAVE YOUR LAMPS LIT!" How about coming at this from another angle: we are all familiar with the tragedy that happened in the year 1912: the sinking of the Titanic is an event that still grips our imaginations this day. Imagine how people would've reacted if the day before the ship left, the Capt. had offered **free rides around the harbor in the life boats of the big ship. Who in their right minds would've even bothered?** I mean, who wants to be paddled around a dirty seaport in an overgrown rowboat?

But a few nights later, in the frigid waters of the North Atlantic, **THOSE PLACES IN THE LIFEBOATS WERE PRICELESS.** As that great ship was sinking, many offered huge wads of money for a place in those lifeboats. But those places were not for sale...

That's kind of how we ought to contemplate Jesus Christ, the Son of God crucified on the cross – cause how many people out there walking around these days even have a crucifix, not just a cross, a crucifix prominently displayed within their homes? For most people, **that's a preposterous proposition! I mean, it really doesn't go with the decor of the house** - who in their right mind even bothers?

But I'll tell you what, when our EXPIRATION DATE COMES UP, when the Great Ship of this world sinks out of sight and the Master of the House comes looking for us in the middle of the night, **THE LIFEBOAT OF FAITH IN CHRIST CRUCIFIED OUT OF LOVE FOR US** is more than any lifeboat on a sinking Titanic back in 1912!!

If we were to meet our Maker today, **is EVERYTHING ABOUT HOW WE ARE LIVING OUR LIVES READY and IN ORDER for the Masters return?**