

Blessedness...At Work

If you looked at it closely, you could see him paddling into that overwhelming darkness. An artist once drew a picture of a lake in the midst of a storm: the white crest of the waves were crashing into one another and the biting wind was billowing in the dark of night. Yet in that watery chaos, a solitary man in a small, green fishing boat was rowing along, but he could see off in the distant, angry skies, a small sparkle of a star glimmering above lighting the path through the brutal storm. Underneath the picture was written these words:

“If I lose that, I’m lost!”

Watchfulness can be associated with waiting for an indefinite amount of time and blankly staring off into the distance like a security guard. It can sound mundane and uninspiring, BUT if we saw ***watchfulness as an exercise of focus, an exercise of keeping the eyes of our heart focused***, not just on any star, but on THE BRIGHT MORNING STAR (Rev 22:16) through the storms of life then we begin to see how necessary watchfulness is.

But HOW can we BE watchful? What does it mean to focus on the Jesus Christ, the Bright Morning Star in our daily life?

If we listen carefully, we will catch what Jesus means by watchfulness: *“Blessed is that slave whom his master will find AT WORK when he arrives”* (Lk 12:43). What TYPE of work is Jesus referring to?

They say that when they discovered the ancient Roman town, Pompeii, 1600-1700 years later, they were able to recreate the last moments of those citizens. The city was destroyed by a violent volcanic eruption in the first century, but much of it was preserved due to the lack of air and moisture. Additionally, there were voids in the ash where humans were once covered by the lava, and so the scientists poured liquid plaster to remodel the state of those citizens in their dying moments.

Some were hiding in vaults presumably to get away from the lava; others in lofty chambers, but where did they find the Roman sentinel? Standing at the city gate where his captain had placed him, still clasping the weapon given to him. As the sky was filled with fire, as the earth roared with fury, there was the Roman sentinel standing at his post as his captain had commanded him.

This is the work that Jesus wants us to do: “My food is TO DO THE WILL of him who sent me, and to ACCOMPLISH HIS **WORK**” (Jn 4:34). The work which Jesus calls us to do, is to do the will of the Father in every moment of our lives, even when it seems like the flames of hell are raging about us, he is still calling us to hold onto our posts as Catholics and do his will out of love.

Although at the end of our lives we hopefully won't be encased in lava, but at every moment of our life, will we be standing at our post? If MY HEART *was encased in lava* at a random point in my day, would it be directed toward the will of God or will it be directed toward another 'god'?

Some practical things to ensure that we are doing the will of God is to plan our day with Jesus. Sometimes it can be very specific or general depending on your circumstances.

“Lord, what is the best way I can give the greatest honor and glory to you?” Is it by fulfilling my vocation by supporting my family and those in need? Is it by educating my children in faith and in school? If I am retired, different volunteering opportunities or educational opportunities?

Your days may not look significantly different, but the intention with which we live our daily lives will change. Whatever we are doing, we want to do it with the intention of fulfilling the will of God by working towards our sanctification through giving the greatest honor and praise to God at every moment our daily life.

If we keep our eyes of Jesus—who shows us what it means to do the will of the Father because he did it perfectly—if we keep our eyes on the Bright Morning Star in the storms of our life, we will be watchful and ready for our master because if I lose him, I'm lost!