

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time November 12, 2017

Reading 1 - Wis 6:12-16

Brothers and sisters, I believe that this week's passage deals with preparation for the coming of the lord and how we should have a constant vigil on doing the right thing. The first reading explains the daily challenges of keeping the faith and how living in god's eyes is an everyday battle. Doing the right thing provides clarity in our minds that helps remove the pressure of looking over our shoulder for bad things to come. Doing the right thing or the "perfection of prudence" may also be termed as "Got your six" which in military terms is "Got your Back". I firmly believe that doing the right the thing, God will have my six.

Reading 2 - 1 Thes 4:13-18

Day in and day out we are challenged by influences that have no direct path to the teachings of Jesus. As Christians we believe that our Lord Jesus Christ died and rose to provide us hope in the wake of our own death. The preponderance of the modern day youth and young adults has struggled to grasp this faith and honestly I have also had lapses in this belief. But what I do understand is when I am living in his faith; I find peace and tranquility in my daily life. Making decisions and living with the outcome is always difficult, but honest belief of doing the right thing lets me conduct my actions without looking over my shoulder because, I believe "Christ has my six".

Gospel – Mt 25:1-13

After reading today's gospel, which dealt with the virgins waiting for the groom, some virgins had plenty of oil in their lamps and some did not. This reflection reminds of me of the modern day practice of "Just in Time" inventory. This practice was a development in manufacturing that required timing of inventory but little allowance for spare parts. We too often look and rely on this principal when we require the lord's attention when we are in dire need of help or penance. "Just in Time" prayers should not be thought about when living in the eyes of the lord. We build faith; we earn his trust and live for the day that we are called to his side. For which I will continue to bank inventory of good deeds in order to prevent an overdraft of the lapse of judgment of my upcoming future.

In summary, this is a great discussion with interwoven meanings from each reading and the gospel. These meanings indicate we should always be on guard and prepare for the coming of the lord. The readings of doing the right thing easily blend into banking prayers (oil) and allowing Christ to watch our back.

Ted Tracy