

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

November 26, 2017

When I was a child, there was a TV show called "Kids say the Darndest Things" hosted by Art Linkletter, a wise and witty man. On one show, three children were asked what would happen if one day they came home from school and their parents were gone forever? One child said that he would have a big party and do all the things they were told not to do by their parents, another child said that he didn't want to think about that ever happening, it was just too scary, and the third child said that she would be sad that she wouldn't have the chance to make her parents happy any more. As a child at the time, I found myself agreeing with the second boy's answer that it would be best not to think about that. Growing up you soon find out that you do not have that option and you are forced to deal with loss, the biggest one being lost opportunities.

"The End is Near!" is not some crazy person's rant on a street corner, nor a science fiction apocalyptic movie, rather it is the message, or better a warning that the Gospel is telling us today and we do not have the luxury of not thinking about it. There is no shortage of opportunities to seize at any moment. We are surrounded by hungry, thirsty people in our daily lives and in our own families. The hunger and thirst might not be for food and water but rather love, attention, appreciation, wisdom, acceptance and most importantly forgiveness. Stranger and naked may also include people that have lost connection to their family, culture and sense of community. Ill and in prison might also apply to those afflictions in some people's minds and hearts, not as visible as in prisons and hospitals.

"Five more minutes please, next time, when the time is right, when I feel like it, tomorrow, I'll get to it someday, I am tired, I am too busy, I don't want to think about it now, I can't do it," soon become the excuses that allow us to lose the opportunities that God has given us in our limited life here on earth.

So, will you choose to continue pretending that you are righteous and that this Gospel message is not for you, or rather choose not to think about it right now, or do your darndest to take advantage of opportunities to make our Father happy?

John Lord