

# Scripture Study

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Cycle C



## Opening prayer

Wisdom 18:6-9

(Ps 33:1,12,18-22)

Hebrews 11:1-2,8-19

**Luke 12:32-48**

## Overview of the Gospel:

- The first part of this Sunday's Gospel (verses 32-34) continues the theme from last week where Jesus emphasized to his disciples detachment from worldly goods and the necessity for dependence on God alone. In the passage between last week's reading and this week's he goes into much more detail on this subject (see Luke 12:22-31).
- Jesus then tells a parable about leadership and responsibility. The apostles are compared to domestic servants who are charged with duties in the household of God. When he tells them to "gird up their loins" he was alluding to the practice of gathering up their long flowing garments in preparation for difficult work—rather like us rolling up our sleeves.
- They must complete these tasks diligently before the sudden return of Christ. As was pointed out in the parable of the rich fool last week, Jesus will come when we least expect it. Be ready! (see Matthew 24:42, 25:13; Mark 14:34).

## Questions:

- How did Moses, Abraham and all the saints of old (as we see in the first two Readings) wait on the Lord and place his trust in him? In what ways can they be an example to us?
- Explain the role reversal described in verse 37 of the Gospel Reading. Why does Peter ask the question in verse 41? Why does Jesus answer as he does?
- Why does Jesus say they should be ready (verses 39-40)? Who is the thief?
- What should be the attitude and actions of the faithful and prudent servant (verses 42-43)? What could tempt the servants to do wrong (verse 45)?
- What is the meaning of verse 48? How would the disciples have interpreted it?
- What dangers is Jesus warning you about in this passage? Which danger is most likely to be a problem for you?
- What has God entrusted to you as his steward? If you knew that in 30 days Jesus was returning to see how you were coming along, what would you do to get things ready for the inspection?

**Catechism of the Catholic Church: §§ 764, 2849, 2612**

## Closing Prayer

**Remember to read and meditate on the daily Mass readings found in the bulletin!**

*Oh what remorse we shall feel at the end of our lives, when we look back upon the great number of instructions and examples afforded by God and the Saints for our perfection, and so carelessly received by us! If this end were to come to you today, how would you be pleased with the life you have led this year? -St. Francis de Sales*

# "Blessed are they who open at once when he knocks"

**Scripture:** *Luke 12:32-48*

**Meditation:** What does a treasure, a thief, a wedding feast, and a homecoming have in common? Jesus loved to tell stories (in the form of parables) using common everyday images to draw some rather unusual comparisons and often quite unexpected lessons for his audience. There is an element of surprise in the story of the master returning home unexpectedly after the marriage feast. Will he catch his servant sleeping rather than keeping watchful guard over his master's estate? And how about the person who possessed great wealth, but woke up one day to discover that a thief had carried it all off. What does this say to us about the kingdom of heaven? The treasure God offers is of far greater value than any earthly treasure! But it's possible to lose this treasure if we do not guard what has been entrusted to us by God. In this parable what does the treasure of the kingdom refer to? It certainly refers to the kingdom of God in all its aspects. But in a special way, the Lord himself is the treasure we seek. *If the Almighty is your gold and your precious silver, then you will delight yourself in the Almighty (Job 22:22-23).* The Lord offers us a relationship with him as his sons and daughters and the promise of eternal life as well. If we make the Lord our treasure, he, in turn, will make us his honored friends at his banquet table in heaven!



This parable also contains a lesson in faithfulness and a warning against sloth. Why is faithfulness so important to God? For one, it's the foundation for any lasting and meaningful relationship. Faithfulness or fidelity allows us to persevere in living out an unswerving commitment. The Lord is committed to us in a bond of unbreakable love and fidelity. That is what covenant means – keeping one's word, promise, and commitment no matter how tough or difficult it gets. Faithfulness is a key character trait of God and one that he expects of us. Fortunately God gives the grace and strength to be faithful. He also rewards faithfulness. The joy and privilege of being a son or daughter of God carries with it an awesome responsibility. The

Lord expects us to make good use of the gifts and graces he gives to us. The more he gives, the more he requires. The temptation while the Master is away is to put off for tomorrow what we know the Master expects us to do today. How can we grow in faithfulness? God's grace shows us the way. When we are faithful in the little tasks and promises we make, we learn to be faithful in the bigger and more important responsibilities and tasks entrusted to us. Are you ready to give God an account of your stewardship?

Why is fidelity or faithfulness so difficult today? Modern society extols freedom over fidelity and doesn't want to be bound to an unknown or uncertain future. It's also inconvenient and a burden to the pursuit of one's own interests. We badly need to recover this virtue, not only for our own sake, but for the sake of the next generation as well. If we want to pass on the faith then we need to first be faithful models for our youth.

*"Lord, you are faithful even when I fail. Help me to remain faithful to you and to not shrink back when I encounter difficulties. Make me diligent in the exercise of my responsibilities and wise and prudent in the use of my gifts, time and resources."*

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