

Homily. 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time. Year.A. 14/15 November 2020.

Here's a saying you can rely on; Begin with the end in mind. That's the main message that the scriptures and our church want us to take home in these last weeks of our Christian year. It's a message that makes a lot of sense, a wise message we'd all do well to make our own.

It doesn't matter what you doing or planning to do, always begin with the end and goal in mind. We do this in sport and other competitive endeavours; we do it in our jobs and even in our everyday tasks and chores. We set out with a reason, a goal, an end before us, aiming to get to the finish line. In relation to our lives of faith this same rule applies. Just listen to all of the parts and prayers of the Mass that reference the return of Christ; of how much we long for His coming and how blessed we are to have this hope born of our faith, the end towards which we are looking and working. For, as we say, it is the mystery of our faith that we now proclaim His death and profess His resurrection until He comes again.

Remember the wise and foolish bridesmaids we heard about last weekend. They were all asleep when the groom arrived late. The 'wise five' had the extra oil and energy on hand to wake up, welcome him and enter the wedding banquet. The foolish ones weren't prepared. They'd begun their task without thinking matters through to the end, not keeping the goal in mind, so they found themselves locked out in the darkness.

This weekend a wealthy and powerful man going abroad gives various talents and gifts to his servants, each according to their ability. The

message is simple; use the gifts and skills you have in ways that serve the aims of the God the gift giver. The parable makes it clear that burying away in the darkness whatever we have to contribute and are to develop for the good of God's plan isn't an option. It's down to us to be responsible for and responsive with our gifts, serving the coming of the Kingdom of God which is the reason Jesus told the story in the first place.

This, then, is the end we have to keep in mind, the focus of our hearts and souls in all that we're trying to do; How can I use God's good gifts entrusted to me to serve the Reign of God? We have to ask ourselves; Is what I'm doing delaying, diverting or really promoting the coming of truth, justice, reconciliation and peace in readiness for the Lord's return?

St. Paul reminds us that we are not in the dark about Christ's return either, sudden and unforeseen as it may turn out to be. He affirms that we are children of God, sons and daughters of the light and of the day. We already know what the end will be and towards which we now must focus our efforts and use our gifts. It's nothing less than the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. To Him and Him alone we will all one day have to render account for the way that we put our talents into action serving God and the common good. Or, fearful at the end, be left making excuses for hiding away and wasting God's trust and talents.