**The Nineteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time**

**August 10, 2025**

God speaks to us in different ways and at different times in our lives but we need to listen to God and follow Him. In today’s reading, God says to us that our lives must be marked by girded loins, lighted lamp and waiting hearts.

St. Augustine interpreted “gird up your loins” as departing from evil. We have to detach ourselves from all that holds us back from Christ. Let us layup treasures for ourselves in heaven, where neither thieves can lay their hands nor moths destroy. The third chapter of Peter’s first letter says, “those who desire life and desire to see good days, let them keep their tongue from evil and their lips from speaking deceit. Let them turn away from evil and do good”.

In the first part of today’s Gospel we have the radical call of Jesus to give our earthly belongings to the poor and save treasures in heaven. The second part talks about vigilance and faithfulness. The community of Luke, which is the little flock, need not be afraid of the challenges it faces. All that the people need to do is to be rich before God. Charity is the only way and sharing is the only key. The early church was very concerned about the poor and insisted on almsgiving as is clearly reflected here. Further sayings of Jesus insist on eschatological vigilance and faithfulness for the end may come just like the master who comes at an unexpected hour. The best way to be ready for the master coming is to not be idle but live a life of charity and doing good works.

Our faith in Jesus not only requires us to purge ourselves from evil, but also bids us to cloth ourselves with good deeds. St. Paul said, “the night is far gone, and the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light”. “Let your light shine before others”, said our Lord Jesus Christ, “that they may see your good works and give glory to the Father in Heaven”.

“The best way to preserve the material wealth”, says Jesus, “is to transform it into spiritual wealth by sharing it with our neighbor who are in need”. By so doing, we deposit it into the safest bank- Heaven. On reaching there we shall be presented with the fruits of whatever good we have done here below.

“The mistake”, says Jesus, “would be to delay carrying out our work under the plea that there is plenty of time left”. A single day lost means part of the work being left undone. In the work of salvation there are no holidays. Each and every day in our lives should be a working day.

The first reading says it is utter folly to follow the sinful lives of people around us. There is true wisdom, instead, in being faithful to God who has proved ever faithful to His promises.

Life does not end here below as sinners proclaim.

Even in the Letter to the Hebrews, to help them deepen their faith and thus prevent them from taking the wrong step of going back to Judaism, Paul reminded them how Abraham remained faithful to God in spite of many adversities.

Therefore, we must never waver in our faith in Christ, nor get discouraged in living a true Christian life, whatever the cost.

Let us ask Jesus to gives us faith to follow Him and witness the Gospel in our lives.