

Homily
Friday of the 21st Week in OT
September 1, 2023

Be prepared in all that we do. This is God's message to us today. In our first reading, Paul tells the Thessalonians to be moral, that is, do good things, say good things, behave in a proper way. A chapter later, Paul instructed them to, "Pray without ceasing." When we pray without ceasing, we are always in communion with God, we are always prepared for what God has in store for us.

In our second reading, Jesus tells us the parable of the wise and unwise virgins. The wise virgins were prepared. I've always associated this with Jesus coming to take us home. But, Jesus is always with us, always thinking of us, always there for us. When we pray without ceasing, we are properly prepared; our wicks are trimmed and our oil flasks and lamps are full. We never know when God has something special in mind for us.

Every moment of every day is an opportunity for us to be Christ-like, to be Christ for another. Are we prepared to be Christ-like or are we focused on ourselves. When an opportunity has passed, do we regret our action or inaction or do we thank God for the opportunity?

We know that God is always thinking of us; He knows every hair on our heads; He knows our rising and going to sleep; He knows our thoughts, our needs, our desires, and wants what is best for us. Does this give us consolation or does it give us pause? Are we grateful for God's compassion or are we a little fearful of God knowing what we are thinking and doing throughout the day? Every moment is an opportunity to be Christ for one another. Every moment is an opportunity to focus on ourselves and our own needs.

I'm reminded of the feeding of the five thousand. Jesus was trying to get away and rest, but he, "...saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them..." and he taught them and then he fed them. Jesus was Christ for all of them, just as He is Christ for all of us.

In a few moments, we will see Jesus present on this altar. We will receive Jesus, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity. Jesus will join with us and we will become one with Him and one with each other. Then we will be dismissed. Let us then remember to take that opportunity to leave here and be Christ to the world, in all that we say, in all that we do and even in all that we imagine. Let us remember that Jesus is with us always, sacramentally in the Eucharist and always in our hearts and our minds. Jesus, I trust in you.