

Homily
Friday of the 31st Week in Ordinary Time
November 8, 2024

Do we have any procrastinators here? I am guilty of procrastinating often, justifying it by focusing on the work that is easier or more enjoyable, delaying the important, more critical stuff until I'm forced to take action. Our protagonist in today's Gospel was lazy. He was even criminal in his actions, squandering his master's property. When push came to shove, he realized he needed to do something; he got busy. Yes, he still squandered his master's property, but he was measured and prudent in his actions, hoping to show his master that he could get the job done, even if sloppily. And his master commended him for his actions. We don't know if the servant was able to remain in his master's service or not, but Jesus wants us to focus on the prudent actions of the lazy servant.

We don't have to procrastinate; we don't have to be lazy. We can be prudent in our actions, in our service to God, in our service to one another. It is better to focus on what is important first. What is important in our lives? God tells us exactly where our focus should be; love Him first, and love each other second, in that order. When we love ourselves first, things get out of sorts, we lose our way. God likes it when we get busy; He just wants us to be busy for the right purpose, focused on the best thing.

Everyday is a new day, a fresh start. And God gives us everything we need to stay focused. It is our choice. We can choose to be selfish and procrastinate by focusing on what is easier and more enjoyable or we can focus on God, Who is Love, Who only wants what is best for us. God wants us to take action, but focused on the right action. By coming to Mass, by embracing on the Sacraments, by aligning our will to His, by picking up our cross and walking the narrow path, we become like Christ; we become Christ for the world. We are the prudent and loyal servant, if only we focus on God first. And eventually we will see God face to Face in His heavenly kingdom.