

**19<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME; Cycle – C; Aug. 7<sup>th</sup> 2022**  
**Wisdom 18: 6-9; Hebrews 11: 1-2, 8-19; Luke 12: 32-48**

Dear Sisters & Brothers,

Now and then we all have to witness the untimely and unexpected parting of someone whom we know or love. They can be our own dear ones in the family or our friends. Some of them happened to be very young with possible long life ahead. How uncertain our life is! That is why in today's gospel Jesus warns us, **“Gird your loins and light your lamps and be like servants who await their master's return from a wedding. You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect the Son of Man will come”** Concerning the material life we are all vigilant and put our hearts and souls in the worldly things. But coming to the matter of our eternal life none of us can claim that we are that vigilant. At the same time we all feel that we have got enough time in hand to work on that. These days the common complaint we hear from people is that they are so busy and as a result they don't have time to think about God and religion. We always feel that we don't have enough time to finish our jobs on earth. Today the young and the old are running to conquer things in the world. We have a lot of goals to achieve and we are living in the age of multitasking and very often we take up things more than we can handle.

As we heard last week in the Book of Ecclesiastes, it is true that whatever we achieve on earth should be left behind one day for somebody else. **So together with all the goals we have set before us to achieve, we should keep our eternal life as the prime goal.** If we miss that goal, then whatever we have in the world will never have any meaning and use at all. That is why, in St. Matthew's gospel Jesus asks, **“What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? (Mt. 16:26).** In the modern age not very many people give any importance or attention to the eternal life. Many don't want to hear about it and yet many take eternal life for granted. *But no one can simply ignore the reality of the final call from God which can reach us any moment of our life.* It seems that for the past two Sundays, Jesus doesn't have anything positive to offer us. Last Sunday through the example of the rich farmer, he showed us the folly of hoarding the material things without considering the needy. This Sunday more or less he repeats the same message and brings our attention to the **transitory nature** of our life on earth and the **abrupt ending of it.**

The scientific world is capable to know almost everything in advance. It can predict ahead the occurrences of natural calamities and changes in Nature. The

medical science can predict the exact day of the birth of a baby. But God has kept in secret the exact day and time of the death of a person. In a way, it is good for us that death remains unknown. If not, we will be counting each day and will never be able to do anything in the world. **But at the same time we should not be under the impression that death is meant for only this one or that one, not for me.** Through the parable of the master and servants, Jesus warns us to be prepared every day, as we don't know the exact day and time. At the same time the intention of Jesus is not to frighten or disappoint us; rather, as he loves us he doesn't want us to be in loss or panic.

Once Francis of Assisi was raking in his garden and one of his friends asked him, "Francis, if today is your last day on earth, how will you react to it?" Francis replied, "I will first finish my raking." Yes, only a person who is well prepared can take death with that cool attitude. Let us turn to ourselves personally and ask the same question, **"If today is my last day, am I prepared enough to face the Lord?"** When we are young, healthy, good looking and have enough money in hand, we think that the earth, the big globe is in our fists. **But it does not take even a minute to see the same globe shattering under our feet.** A single call from the doctor's office can change the entire life for the worse. But if we close our daily account with the Lord, we are ready to receive him at any time; day, night and early morning, no matter at what time he knocks at our door.

It is said that the dangerous day in man's life is 'tomorrow.' The devil tells us, tomorrow you can pray a little more; tomorrow onwards you can be regular in attending the Mass. **But people forget the fact that tomorrow is not theirs.** The past is already gone from us and the future yet to come, but the present is ours. So we need to live the present well. Very often the last moment preparation may not be possible. Remember, the tree will fall towards the direction it is bent. We never miss important things in the world which is for our benefit and interest. We plan things way ahead. But let us ask ourselves and see how much we plan for our eternal journey. So while we have this short life in hand, let us try to be faithful to the Lord, though we are not perfect before Him. **Let us make a simple resolution that I will never go to bed without a good examination of conscience and making an act of contrition. If we happen to be in mortal sin, let us not delay the reconciliation with Lord in Sacrament of Penance with the Lord. Let us not miss a Sunday Mass without sufficient reason.**