



Scripture nugget – Re-ordering our lives in spiritual readiness

For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief at night. When people are saying, “Peace and security,” then sudden disaster comes upon them, like labor pains upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you, brothers, are not in darkness, for that day to overtake you like a thief. For all of you are children of the light and children of the day. We are not of the night or of darkness. Therefore, let us not sleep as the rest do, but let us stay alert and sober (1Thessalonians 5:2-6).

Purifying our spiritual house. The Lord exhorts us that now is the time of spiritual reform (cf. 2 Corinthians 6:2). It is a time we make a firm decision to detach ourselves of all our sins, bad habits and vices. Sin is the only thing that separates us from love of God Who is our true happiness and fulfillment. When we commit sin, we become slaves of sin (cf. John 8:34). By His life, death and resurrection, Christ delivers us from bondage and slavery to sin, and merits for us the graces for our sanctification. Therefore, we must be vigilant not to fall back into slavery to sin by our negligence. Are we committed and convicted in our faith? Or is our faith lukewarm and weakened by apathy and complacency? *With all vigilance guard your heart, for in it are the sources of life (Proverb 4:23)*. We need to keep our hearts pure so that our thoughts, words and actions are based on love. Hatred, unforgiveness, and grudges have no place in a pure heart. If we do not forgive others, God will not forgive us our sins (cf. Matt 6:15). Do we love others the way God commands us to do so? The way we judge and treat others will be the way we will be judged and treated at our final judgement when we come before the Lord on our judgement day (cf. Matthew 7:2).

Prioritising and controlling our time. God gives us our whole lifetime in which to merit ourselves a place in heaven with the help of His grace through a loving relationship with Him and others. Many souls sadly ended this earthly pilgrimage, spending all their time on earthly pursuits that distract them from heaven, failing to fulfill the purpose of their life. God’s mercy is only for the repentant. The Parable of the Great Feast (cf. Luke 14:16-24) highlights the importance of prioritizing and controlling our time. One of the invitee could not come because he had just bought a field. Another could not come because he just purchased oxen. A third could not come because he just got married. All these souls have allowed their earthly concerns to take priority over their allegiance to God, personified by the inviter. Jesus says that if any one comes to Him without “hating” his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be His disciple (cf. Luke 14:26). Our Lord is clear that we need to place our love of and allegiance to Him above all others. Once we can do this, we will be able to love others with an unconditional love.

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, please help me keep my soul in a state of grace always as You said You will come unannounced like a thief in the night. By my obedience to Your Commandments help me live a life devoted to pleasing You and not myself or others because You will be the One Who will ultimately judge me. Help me develop a deep, loving relationship with You and others through my prayers, good works, meditation and the daily living of Your Word. Through the holy Sacraments of the Church, especially Confession, fill my soul with torrents of Your grace. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.