

Fr. Romeo Evangelista's Homily  
November 8, 2020  
Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

There is an old saying: "Time is too slow for those who wait; too fast for those in a hurry; too long for those who mourn; too short for those who rejoice, but for those who love, time is not".

One of the most difficult things we do is wait. We wait for something to happen and the uneasiness grows every second. We are told over and over again that all good things come to those who wait – but we are impatient. Remember as kids we could hardly wait to grow up to get this vacation or that special day...to finish high school and graduate and then find a job. We could hardly wait to find someone to love, to marry, to have a home and then to have children.

As we grow older there does not seem to be enough time for all this waiting. And, yet, when we take a look at creation, we realize that we must wait. The seasons wait to change. Night waits for day. We wait to be born....to grow up....even wait to die. Love waits for a lover...even God waits for a change of heart.

Jesus, in today's gospel reading, is trying to point out how important it is to wait. Jesus is telling us to wait in holy expectation. He is also telling us that the Lord of life comes not only at our death but also at each and every moment of our day. Life is an adventure, a fascinating journey. Our God is a God of many surprises, and we are to expect the unexpected. We need to be ready to recognize and greet him as he reveals himself from moment to moment.

The five foolish virgins in today's gospel parable did not expect to run out of oil because they did not plan for the late arrival of the bridegroom. They were caught unprepared. And being unready, they missed the celebration. They were foolish because they got bored waiting. They were forgetful and not caring enough to wait. Certainly, they were not expecting the unexpected. You and I are called to be people of faith. We should live our lives ever-waiting to respond to the Lord's call – knowing that He is in our midst. As we wait for his coming, we need

to be sensitive and sensible to the changes God is asking us to make. We should not be foolish trying to keep things as they are. I love what Campbell Morgan says about waiting on God, “Waiting for God is not laziness, waiting for God is not going to sleep. Waiting for God is not abandonment. Waiting for God means, first, activity under command; second, readiness for any new command that may come; third, the ability to do nothing until the command is given”.

Our God is calling us to be more than people who stand around and wait – waiting for someone else to get things done. So often we think God expects great and wonderful things, and we think we are not capable of accomplishing great tasks. But it is the little things in life that really matter for God’s kingdom. It is that waiting in patience as manifested in a friendly smile, a gesture of affection, a pat on the back. It is that waiting in patience as expressed in our trust and confidence in God’s providence no matter how difficult life becomes. You and I are to be signs of God’s loving presence in whatever situation we may find ourselves in and to whoever is in need of whatsoever.

What makes up our preparation for the great encounter with Christ at the time of death is a Christian life lived fully in all its demands. It is a life with a burning lamp – the lamp of everyday love, of patient hope, of ever-ripening faith. Indeed, the lamp of our life must be ever-full with the oil of our self-sacrificing love. So let us fill our lamp with the oil of God’s grace every day of our life.

Amen