Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time



Waking up is spirituality,
because only by waking up
can we enter into truth and freedom.

ANTHONY DE MELLO

Reading 1 Wisdom 6:12-16

Resplendent and unfading is wisdom,
and she is readily perceived by those who love her,
and found by those who seek her.
She hastens to make herself known in anticipation of their desire;
Whoever watches for her at dawn shall not be disappointed,
for he shall find her sitting by his gate.
For taking thought of wisdom is the perfection of prudence,
and whoever for her sake keeps vigil
shall quickly be free from care;
because she makes her own rounds, seeking those worthy of her,
and graciously appears to them in the ways,
and meets them with all solicitude

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8

R. (2b) **My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.**

O God, you are my God whom I seek;for you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts
like the earth, parched, lifeless and without water. **R.**
Thus have I gazed toward you in the sanctuary to see your power and your glory,
For your kindness is a greater good than life; my lips shall glorify you. **R.**
Thus will I bless you while I live;lifting up my hands, I will call upon your name.
As with the riches of a banquet shall my soul be satisfied,
and with exultant lips my mouth shall praise you. **R.**
I will remember you upon my couch,and through the night-watches
I will meditate on you: You are my help,
and in the shadow of your wings I shout for joy. **R.**

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters,about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope.
For if we believe that Jesus died and rose,so too will God, through Jesus,
bring with him those who have fallen asleep.
Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord,that we who are alive,
who are left until the coming of the Lord,will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep.For the Lord himself, with a word of command,with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God,will come down from heaven,and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left,will be caught up together with them in the cloudsto meet the Lord in the air. Thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore, console one another with these words.

Gospel Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus told his disciples this parable:
"The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.
Five of them were foolish and five were wise.
The foolish ones, when taking their lamps,brought no oil with them,but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps.
Since the bridegroom was long delayed,they all became drowsy and fell asleep.
At midnight, there was a cry,
'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'
Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps.
The foolish ones said to the wise,
'Give us some of your oil,for our lamps are going out.'
But the wise ones replied,
'No, for there may not be enough for us and you.
Go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.'
While they went off to buy it,the bridegroom came
and those who were ready went into the wedding feast with him.
Then the door was locked.
Afterwards the other virgins came and said,'Lord, Lord, open the door for us!'
But he said in reply,
'Amen, I say to you,
I do not know you.'
Therefore, stay awake,for you know neither the day nor the hour."



fill your lamp

NOT VERY SENSIBLE BELIEVERS

There are a lot of parables in which Jesus repeats in one way or another, the same message: «The best thing you have is hope. Don't lose it. Keep it alive. Don't dampen your yearning for eternal life. Wait with your heart burning. Be clear. There's nothing sadder than a "worn out" person who has lost hope in God».

Jesus doesn't use moralistic language. For him, letting hope go out in us isn't a sin, it's stupidity. The young girls of the parable who let their lamp go out before the bridegroom arrives are «foolish», since they didn't know how to keep their hope alive. They hadn't been concerned with the most important thing a human being must do: wait for God until the end.

It's not easy today to hear this message. We've lost our capability to live something intensively for the long run. The passing of time wears everything out. People of our day only seem to be fascinated with what's new, what's up to date, the present moment. We don't manage to go about living something alive and permanent without letting it languish.

We've encountered a more reasonable and sensible way of looking at the future. We're masters of making all kinds of calculations and previsions in order to run no risks in the future. We're worried about securing our health and guaranteeing our level of living; we plan out our retirement and we set up a tranquil old age. All that is very well, but we don't stop being foolish if we don't recognize something evident: all these securities fabricated by ourselves are insecure.

The Gospel warning isn't irrational or absurd. Jesus simply invites us to live with our eyes on eternal life, without deceiving ourselves naively about the expiration date and the limits of this life: «What provisions have you made beyond what's visible and perishable? Where do you think you will encounter security when your securities collapse?»

To keep hope alive means not being content with just any old thing, not losing hope in human beings, never losing the desire of «eternal life» for all, not ceasing to seek, to believe, to trust. Though they may not know it, those who live thus are awaiting the coming of God

.José Antonio Pagola
Translator: Fr. Jay VonHandorf