

Fr Rudy's Reflections
The Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 10, 2025

Stay Ready, Stay Faithful

My Brother and Sisters in the Risen Lord,

Imagine a young nurse on the night shift. The hospital is quiet, but anything can change in a moment. Though there are stretches of silence, she checks on her patients regularly, reviews charts, and stays alert. She is ready for whatever might come through the ER doors. She doesn't know when or if a crisis will occur, but her preparation is part of her calling. This is the kind of vigilant readiness Jesus calls us to in this Sunday's Gospel from Luke 12:32-48.

Jesus tells his disciples: "Seek his kingdom, and these other things will be given you besides." In other words, we are not to be consumed by anxiety over the material needs of life. Just as God clothes the lilies and feeds the birds, God knows what we need. But our first priority must always be the Kingdom of God by living in faith, hope, and love.

We then hear two parables. In the first, Jesus compares his return to a master coming home from a wedding banquet. Blessed are those servants who remain alert and ready, even in the middle of the night. In the second parable, a steward is entrusted with managing his master's household. If he fulfills his duties with care and integrity, he will be rewarded. But if he abuses his power and forgets his responsibility, he will be punished.

These stories remind us that the Christian life isn't a passive waiting game. It's an active journey of trust, vigilance, and accountability. Jesus warns that the master may come "at an hour you do not expect." These words aren't meant to frighten us but to keep us spiritually awake. Every day offers opportunities to live faithfully: to serve others, to grow in prayer, to repent of sin, to live with joy.

And here lies a powerful truth of our faith: God doesn't ask for perfection before he calls us to serve. As theologian Peter Kreeft so beautifully says, "This faith, and its fearlessness, is for every one of us. You don't have to be perfect; you just have to believe. Take your eyes off yourself and your worries for a while and just look at him." The gaze of faith lifts us above the distractions and fears that often consume us. It opens us to the grace of God that transforms our daily lives.

As the Letter to the Hebrews reminds us this week, "Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen." This kind of faith sustains us when life is uncertain, when God seems distant, or when our efforts feel unnoticed. We keep watch not out of fear but out of love.

Finally, Jesus tells us, "Much will be required of the person entrusted with much." Each of us has been given gifts, time, and opportunities. How will we use them? Will we serve, forgive, witness, and pray?

Stay awake. Stay ready. And trust that your faithful service, though it may go unseen by the world, is always known and rewarded by the Lord.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Rudy