

BRINGING HOME THE GOSPEL

November 12, 2023 • 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time • Matthew 25:1-13

Be Prepared

In this reading, we have another parable from Jesus. This time Jesus is cautioning us to always be ready to shine our light. He tells a story of ten virgins who are waiting with lit lamps for the bridegroom. The wise virgins dim their lights to conserve the fuel until they will need it. The foolish use up all their fuel before the bridegroom appears.

The parable of the ten bridesmaids has a moral that is easy to spot. The moral is “we don’t know when God will come, but we’d better be ready, have what we need at hand, pay attention, listen, and be prepared.”

Usually when we hear this story, we think about our last days, and being prepared for our final judgment. But this parable also has a lot to say to us about everyday living. God calls to us throughout our lives, and God expects a response. There is an old saying by Charles Kingsley: “Have thy tools ready: God will find us work.” I think this parable is about having our tools ready.

There is no doubt that parents need special tools to nurture their children to be faith-filled, independent adults. They need patience and courage as well as ingenuity and common sense. They need tools to negotiate and persuade, and tools to comfort and coax. Parents also need practical tools like being able to organize and multitask, cook, clean, and manage the finances.

Since parents can’t do it all, you have to count on others to provide some of the tools they may need. .

What tool(s) do you most need that you don’t have? Can others provide? If not, how can you get them? Pray daily for what you need, and remember God has promised to provide. With prayer and the help of others, your tools will be ready because God knows raising a child provides abundant work.

FAMILY RESPONSE

What tools does your family need to be more loving and giving with each other?

PERSONAL RESPONSE

How can you help make your family and your world a better place? What tools do you need to accomplish this? What do you want to remember from last week? What are you looking forward to next week? What are your concerns?