

Integral Faith

"Homily helps and liturgy resources highlighting care for our common home."



Catholic Climate Covenant™
Care for Creation. Care for the Poor.

Homily Helps and Petitions for the 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C (August 7, 2022)

Homily Helps

† Scripture Passages to Note:

Hebrews 11: Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen.

Luke 12: "Be like servants who await their master's return from a wedding...Blessed are those servants whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival."

Comments for the Day:

The gospel passage for today tells the story of servants who were left in charge of their master's household. Such a household would include not only people but also animals, land, and goods. In other words, these servants were pressed to exercise some form of stewardship over the household of another.

Some might think that the uncertainty of the master's return, which is certainly prominent in the story, is its primary focus. Perhaps not. The delay actually sets the stage for the message heard in Jesus' exhortation to his disciples – and to us: "Be prepared." They are told not to put off their duty, thinking that they will have time to accomplish it later. And how were these servants to prepare for the master's arrival, unexpected or not? By faithfully carrying out their responsibilities as stewards.

With each generation we learn more and more about the household of God. The ancient Jews abandoned their sense of tribal restriction and moved into a broader worldview, one that included Gentiles. Other racial, ethnic, and religious boundaries were soon crossed as well, further expanding the concept of God's household.

Today we have come to recognize the enormity of this household, God's earthy creation, as well as our connectedness with it and oversight of its forcefulness and fragility. We can hardly imagine what wonders lie in store in new scientific discoveries on land, sea, and space. In many ways, we are like Abraham who in blind faith stepped out into the unknown. Each step calls us to refashion our understanding of and responsibility for that household. This includes addressing the crisis of climate change, which is impacting all life that is sustained by creation.

Like the servants in the gospel story, we have been entrusted with this wondrous household by the Master himself. This should both reassure us and humble us at the same time. We have been deemed trustworthy and capable of the task of caring for creation. As trustworthy and capable servants, we are responsible for safeguarding a treasure trove that is not ours.

This resource is provided by Catholic Climate Covenant in collaboration with the Integral Faith Team, a group of male and female religious, priests, and lay people dedicated to serving the Church.

† Passages from *Laudato Si'* to Note:

The creation accounts in the book of Genesis...suggest that human life is grounded in three fundamental and closely intertwined relationships: with God, with our neighbor and with the earth itself. According to the Bible, these three vital relationships have been broken, both outwardly and within us. This rupture is sin [and includes] attacks on nature. (66)

This responsibility for God's earth means that human beings, endowed with intelligence, must respect the laws of nature and the delicate equilibria existing between the creatures of this world...The laws found in the Bible dwell on relationships, not only among individuals but also with other living beings. (68)

[A]ll of us are united by unseen bonds and together form a kind of universal family, a sublime communion which fills us with a sacred, affectionate and humble respect. (89)

Related Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1: That we understand our role as stewards of God's household, His earthly creation, as both a unique privilege and a solemn responsibility, let us pray to the Lord.

Option 2: That we will be found vigilantly attending to our responsibilities toward the household of God, His earthly creation, when the Master returns, let us pray to the Lord.

Further Resources

Feedback: info@catholicclimatecovenant.org

Webpage: www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/resource/english-homily-help

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