

## FROM OUR SEMINARIAN

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Gospel this week comprises two significant themes that concern our lives: Saint Luke showed the word of Jesus telling his disciples about a wake-up call for everyone: inner readiness and responsibility.

To be awake when the master has not returned. The first thing that Jesus speaks to His disciples is “Gird your loins and light your lamps.” This reminds us of the story of the Jewish Passover Night (Exodus 12:11), which refers to the attitude of being ready to go to meet the owner, and “lamps burning” alludes to the readiness to light up the way to welcome home the master. The Old Testament describes the Jews going out to meet God in the middle of the night while the Egyptians were still asleep. The coming of the Lord is often described in the middle of the night to indicate suddenness (Mt 25:6-13). Jesus calls us awake and ready, not in a restless mood but getting the job done every day. In daily life, we struggle to make a living. We are easily lulled to sleep by worldly worries, worldly vanities, and material possessions. The Lord invites us to stay awake because we do not know what will happen tomorrow. Many incidents happen every day, such as plane crashes, car traffic accidents, and unusual deaths. Thus, Jesus invited the servant to fasten his belt and light a lamp until his master returned.

Jesus invites us to one more beatitude: “Blessed is that servant whom his master on arrival finds doing so” Blessed are they! God invited all of us, that we must stay awake when our Lord returns. The Lord has assigned each person a different executive and leadership task. Therefore, we have to take responsibility for completing the assigned work well. The reward of a servant who is awake and waiting is to see his master return, hear his voice, and open the door for him. Doing the will of the master brings the servant into association with him. To remember that we are only managers, not rational leaders. We must faithfully follow our boss’s orders. As Luke shows us, the example of a manager is that he or she is assigned to look after his master’s servants, and he or she will be put in charge of the property when the master sees that he has been faithful to his previous job. Because the owner appoints the manager and can reward or punish the manager depending on the attitude and actions of the manager. The manager’s work is God’s work, so he must do it according to the time God prescribes, which is God’s time. Therefore, blessed is the manager who does such a thing, and the master comes and does it.

However, woe to those who are not awake and unwilling to do what the master wants. Truly a shame for them! St. Luke describes the delayed and unexpected arrival of Jesus to emphasize the vigilance of the master’s manager. The master may be home late, and maybe he will not come back. Therefore, the manager keeps eating, drinking, and having fun, even if it leads him to oppress, dominate, and beat others. This is the temptation of the “responsible,” Jesus tells us. A word of warning to everyone: No one is privileged before God. (Luke 12:47). Because judgment depends on the level of consciousness and understanding we have, the people who “manage” them are not the “masters.” We must have two qualities: loyalty and a conscience! We only have one job to do: take care everyone!

From this passage of the Gospel, we can also see a new meaning of “responsible” in all areas. What attitude should we have to respond to God’s call in today’s Gospel? We must be awake and ready to wait for the Lord to come. The Lord will come to us on the last day of our lives at an unknown time, but it is important that we “tie our belts and have a burning lamp in our hands” when the Lord comes. Awake and ready in the posture of a working person with the awareness that one is waiting for the Lord to come. Blessed are we if the Lord comes while we are at work; the Lord will reward as much as a master puts his faithful servant at the table and serves him. Our awareness is the awareness that life is to love and serve. This is the true meaning of the vigilance that Jesus wants to talk about in today’s Gospel.