

FR.TK REFLECTIONS 32nd SUNDAY YEAR A 2020

PREPARE THE LAMP, HAVE THE OIL, CARRY THE TORCH, DON'T FORGET THE BATTERIES.

What a disturbing theme as we come to the close of the Liturgical year! Obviously, it presupposes a warning in advance. It calls all of us to

Be alert, vigilant, and watchful.

All these warnings are meant to be for our wellbeing as we travel toward our destiny. It calls us to be focused on our way of life, **not only as Christians, but also as a human.**

I imagine an African setup for such an occasion as found in today's Gospel. The friends of the bridegroom crashing the gate to the home of the Bride looking for her and using all means to pick her. The Bridesmaids in excitement ready to meet these young Turks, wearing their Sunday best, having torches, and beautiful lambs as the custom dictates. It is an occasion of joy. What a pity if the Bridegroom party delays, arriving late, perhaps due to ***impassable roads after the rains, traffic jams caused by political rally vehicles, a broken truck on the road, or purposely delaying to see whether they were awaited!***

*The girls will keep their lamps lite, awaiting, no matter how long it will take, for the bridegroom's party to arrive. Some smart enough to bring extra oil in case, others overwhelmed by the expectations or being busy with doing their hair that they **FORGET** to carry extra oils! This is the case our Lord is staging for all his followers. What a powerful message as we prepare the last weeks of the year of the church!*

We **MUST** be prepared to receive the kingdom of God. The call is there, the stage is prepared, and readied for us. We must make a choice to follow it now . We do not know when He is coming.

Our torches and our Lamb **MUST** be ready.

We need that **OIL OF FAITH.**

We need to be **FULLY EQUIPPED** and **PREPARED** in case of delay.

We need to be careful not to be **LOCKED OUT** of the eternal kingdom which is our destiny.

If Jesus comes now, what kind of a person can he find in you. He will not ask of your **ACHIEVEMENTS** but **THE PERSON OF YOU**. Is he going to find spiritual oil, **OUR LAMPS BRIGHT**, or **DIMMED** by lack of preparations? We need to make sure our lamps are burning and have extra in case of delay. We must keep on adding oil by **PRAYER, GOOD WORKS OF MERCY and KINDNESS**. We are invited like the ten Ladies. Are we going to be **WISE ONES** or **FOOLISH ONES**? **The stage is set, it all depends on you.**

Let us be careful not to face the tragedy and be caught unaware due to involvement in materialism and the pleasures of the society. Let us try not to run out of Grace oils despite carrying the beautiful oil lamps without oil after so much preparation in our faith. We need to maintain our spiritual dignity as followers of Christ as opposed to the popular culture of present-day society which is so misleading. Our oil can run out through negligence of the basic Christian values of prayer and good works. Let us note the fact that there are things we cannot borrow from others and cannot give to others. **WE CANNOT GIVE FAITH, GRACE, or SPIRITUALITY.** *We are responsible before God for these; hence, the wise girls could not give the oils to the foolish ones.*

AM EMPTY LAMP, NO MATTER HOW BEATIFUL IT MIGHT BE IS USELESS FOR IT CANNOT GIVE LIGHT WITHOUT OIL. GIVE LIGHT, AND SHINE TO OTHERS. BE WISE AND ALWAYS BE PREPARED.