

October 22, 2024

Daily Reflections



Center for Spiritual Development

BE PREPARED

By Alicia M. Rodriguez

Today's Gospel

Jesus said to his disciples:

*“Gird your loins and light your lamps
and be like servants who await their master’s return from a wedding,
ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks.*

*Blessed are those servants
whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival.*

*Amen, I say to you, he will gird himself,
have them recline at table, and proceed to wait on them.
And should he come in the second or third watch
and find them prepared in this way,
blessed are those servants.”*

LUKE 12:35-38

Reflection

As the oldest of three, I remember the panic of hearing my parents' car pulling into the driveway and trying to defrost a whole frozen chicken in 2 minutes even though they told me to take it out of the freezer when they left.

Today's gospel reminded me of that feeling and made me think: "Am I currently prepared and vigilant for Christ's return? What does it mean to be prepared in the second or third watch?"

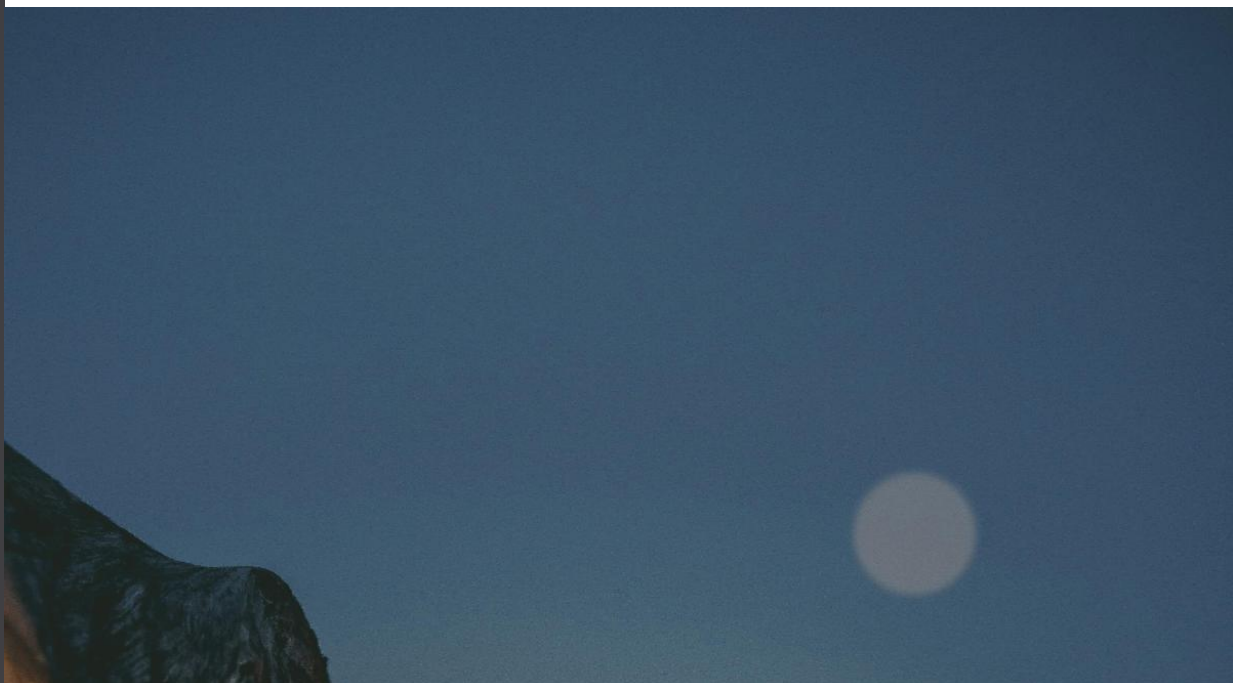
As much as I'd like to say to myself that I am well prepared for Christ's return I must be honest and say that there are certain aspects of my life that can use more preparation, such as my participation in corporal works of mercy and spending more time in contemplative prayer conversing with God.

For my second question I turned to Google and found that the second watch normally started around 9 pm and the third watch would start around 3 AM. Which meant that I must be prepared and ready even during the resting hours of sleep.

Saint Thomas Aquinas has a prayer where he asks God to grant him the the following graces:

- To desire ardently.
- To examine prudently.
- To acknowledge truthfully.
- To accomplish everything pleasing to God.

These are the things that I think of when it comes to asking myself, "Am I prepared?" They serve as a guide for me to check in on my preparedness for the return of my master.





Kerosene Lamp on Wood Log
Photo by Guilherme Stecanella

For Pondering

- Am I prepared to receive God? Where do I need to prepare myself? How can I prepare myself?
- Which of the graces mentioned by Saint Thomas Aquinas do I need to contemplate and reflect on? How will I obtain a stronger sense for the graces that I haven't contemplated on?

For Prayer

Grant Me Grace Prayer

Grant me grace, O Merciful God:

- to desire ardently,*
- to examine prudently,*
- to acknowledge truthfully,*
- and to accomplish perfectly,*

all that is pleasing to You for the praise and glory of Your name.

Amen.

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

Meet the Authors

**Join us Sunday morning, October 27,
for a fun gathering with the writers of our Daily Reflections!**

Learn how each writer decides on the format and content of their reflections, how writing reflections impacts their own spiritual lives, and how YOU can create reflections for yourself and the people you care about. A light brunch buffet will be served.

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