

Celebrating Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019...

Tuesday, 22 October 2019

Latin Readings Rom 5:12-15b, 17-21; Lk 12:35-38

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Today, the evangelist Luke reminds us that we should be equipped and alert at all times. Every disciple should be ready to meet his master at the moment of his arrival. Don't be like a house steward who gets lazy while his master is away. Jesus condemns the servant who is lazy, not for evil done, but for good undone (Lk 12:47). The "girding" in the gospel can mean 'getting properly tied' the dress (the traditional long robe of Jews). They wear loose this long robe at leisure. But they gird this dress when they are at work, travel or warfare. Lighted lamp means no delay in lighting the master's path into the house.

The readiness of disciples is likened to the readiness of servants who eagerly wait for the arrival of their master from a party. The phrase "even if (master) comes in the second or in the third watch" refers to the Hellenistic and Jewish pattern of three watches of night.

The servants are always answerable. The discipleship is a gift from God, but it demands responsibility. The first condition of true service is one's sincere dedication and strong commitment. We should gird up our loins to detach our heart from the transient pleasures and delusive sparkles of this world. And let's set them on the divine realities and eternity. Jesus came to serve (Lk 22:27) and for us, the "serving" should be an honorable task. In our culture it might be a demeaning job. But Jesus elevated this 'service' to a privileged and blessed act. In Christian discipleship there is no space for complacency or half-heartedness. It requires full commitment and disposition to serve Christ, our Lord. Blessed are those servants (Lk 12:38) who are always alert and ready to serve with their lamps lit. Their reward is great!

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