

What if today it were all over?

I mean all of it gone, the whole earth... the end of time. St. Paul reminds us **“the world in its present form is passing away”** (1 Cor. 7:31). Jesus says **“Heaven and earth will pass away... But of that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son”** (Matt. 24:35-36). Do we believe him?

And if we believe in his words, do our beliefs translate into our actions for our day?

Our faith tells us that in the presence of Christ who is Truth itself, the truth of our relationship with God will be laid bare. This will be the Last Judgment. St. Augustine said of this Christ will say to us I gave you poor little ones on earth, and I was their head. My members were on earth suffering and in need. If you gave anything to them what you would give would reach me, their Head.¹ Notice in the parable that the master does not return and dispense unwarranted rewards. The blessed are only those who are vigilant. Those who have not done the master’s will are corrected, just as we must first be corrected, purified, or purged of our vices that prevent us from joining the ranks of the perfect in heaven.

The Gospel challenges us to evaluate how we use the resources of this earth and the fruits of our labor because every one of our actions dispose ourselves for meeting the Lord either properly or poorly. We then ask how many things do we have or have we acquired that quickly go unused, fall into disrepair, or add to the clutter of our homes and lives? Do we fall into greed or even envy, wishing evil on someone when they have some good we desire? St. James warns us of riches that will rot, clothing that will be eaten by moths, and metals that will rust (James 5:2-3). Instead our Savior commands that we provide moneybags for ourselves that do not wear out, treasures in heaven. Certainly this means taking stock of our lives. Jesus tells us to sell our belongings and give alms, and we should be constantly in prayer examining ourselves to see if we indeed can be more generous to a brother and sister in the Lord and live more simply (and we all can). This generosity even extends to our time and our deportment. Today

¹ CCC 1039.

when someone needs to hear loving words will we give them what they need instead of criticizing?

When someone needs our attention and our ear, will we oblige them with our time?

We should carefully and repeatedly thank the Lord for all the gifts that we have in this life. We are careful. We want to make sure that we are not so to say getting drunk on the allurements of luxuries or merely satisfying our passions and desires, for then we are in danger of being that servant who is surprised at his master's arrival.

We heard a little piece of the eleventh chapter of the Letter to the Hebrews. It is one of the most eloquent and lofty in the bible, and I urge you to reread this chapter sometime this week. The sacred writer goes through people of the Old Testament and demonstrates how they had faith in God. They believed that they would realize God's promise and had a conviction of those things that were unseen. This faith helped each of them endure various trials. It helped them put into perspective all the things of this life in relation to our destination which is **"a better homeland, a heavenly one."**

What is it we are hoping for? Jesus tells us when we store up treasure in heaven we can expect something unheard of, that he, the master will have us sit at the table of his heavenly banquet and he, God will wait on us. Do we that faith of Abraham or Abel or Enoch or Noah or Isaac or Jacob or Joseph or Moses or Rahab?

When the Catechism speaks of the Last Judgment it urges us to conversion while there is still time.² We probably have plans for this day. Who is it that we are living this day for. Is it for ourselves? Is it for Jesus, the master? We can ask ourselves a similar question at the end of the day. Jesus was I a faithful and prudent servant in serving you this day or did I squander my time, my possessions? Today we come to the Lord's Table and ask for the faith that realizes what is hoped for and is evidence of things not seen so that we will strive to provide ourselves with inexhaustible treasure in heaven.

² CCC 1041.