

## 19 Ordinary Sunday (Pentecost 12 Year C) August 7 2016

**Readings: Genesis 15:1-6, Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16, Luke 12:32-40, Ps. 33:12-22**

### **Theme: The Strength of Faith**

"Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moths destroy"

In the name of the Father and of the son and of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen

My dear friends, on this 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost we reflect on the strength of faith and the worthlessness of material things.

If the readings of this morning say anything, it is that they provide us with adequate tools for our reflection.

In the first reading from the book of *Genesis*, the Lord spoke to Abraham promising to be his shield. Abraham being childless questions the wisdom of such promise since he has no child to inherit his possession. The Lord promised Abraham many descendants and Abraham believed and he was justified.

In the second reading, the letter to the Hebrews recalls the events of the first reading recalling how Abraham was justified by faith. We are called to imitate the faith of Abraham 'our father in faith'.

In the *Gospel*, the parable of the waiting servant urges a constant watchfulness and faithfulness. The emphasis is on readiness for the return of the Lord.

The greed and the selfishness of the rich fool warned us of attitudes which could keep us from the kingdom. This was no way to inherit eternal life. Today, Jesus teaches us his disciples values which is worthy of the kingdom of God. We as Christians as the apostles were, belong to a tiny flock but by possessing the gift of

the kingdom, we possess everything and so should not be afraid just as Abraham was not afraid.

The rich fool tried to keep his wealth in earthly barns .The person with the spirit of Jesus is ready to give it away confident that his real treasure is in heaven. This does not mean an other world existence. True disciples are always dressed for the journey and ready for action like the Israelites of the first Passover. They are like the wise virgins in Matthew whom the bridegroom found waiting in his return.(Mt 25:2) They know that the master whom they wait is among them and that he will serve them on the last day. Such privileges demand obligations. Jesus in his life time wanted to make his hearers to appreciate how in his own ministry, God was visiting his people (1:68)

Luke wanted to make Christians particularly leaders in the community to appreciate their gifts but also their responsibilities. They were accountable for the household of God gifts. Inside were the resources and people whom the Lord has entrusted unto them. They have to be nurtured and looked after.

Said in another, each and every one of us has been given responsibility. We must be ready to give account of our stewardship.

Today, we are reminded of the need to be ready always. Because the good Lord will call us to account at the time we do not expect. Nothing should be on the way.

Material things and the accumulation of wealth should not blind us. The Lord has promised good things to those who know him. We are indeed a privileged group.

Let us reflect on these.