

**Wednesday, 21 October 2020**

## **EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED**

*Luke 12:39-48*

We all like things to be predictable. We expect things to be safe and to keep on happening just the way they always have. We expect the sun to rise in the morning. We expect to get up, survive the day and finish up back in bed at the end of it, ready to start all over again the next day. We don't really like to be taken by surprise. But the unexpected often happens, as is considered in today's parable. The burglar breaks into a house when we least expect it. The owner arrives home at a time when his careless servant is fast asleep.

There is an element of the unexpected in our relationship with Jesus. This is exactly the message Jesus is teaching his disciples in today's gospel. Jesus wants us to be attentive and alert so we will take responsibility for putting good out in the world.

Being ready and alert isn't about being hyper vigilant and defensive, ready to pounce at a moment's notice. Rather being alert means opening our minds and hearts to God's grace and mercy. It means noticing the gifts that are inherent in our daily lives so we can be fully present. With this open arms stance we can fully appreciate God's presence. And once we live in this state of awareness, we can't help but act.

Jesus used a bit of fire and brimstone to get his point across, but I believe the message is a simple loving one, use your gifts, no matter how large or small to help create love and harmony in the world around you.

*The Son of Man comes...* We may apply this to the hour of our death, for sudden, unexpected death is always possible. But the imagery can have a more positive meaning.

The Lord comes to us in many ways, over the course of our lives. He may inspire us to do something we had not thought about before or draw us down a path we might not have chosen ourselves. He can come to us through unexpected encounters, even with people who do not share our faith. At any time, expect the unexpected, because *God's ways are not our ways*. But it's all for the good!

- ❖ The whole point of life is that you couldn't ever be sure what would happen next.
- ❖ We should live our lives as though Christ was coming this afternoon.
- ❖ By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail.
- ❖ The best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today