

Our Hour of Judgement

A couple of weeks ago my 12-year-old granddaughter asked me out of the blue how come Jesus is not coming now? It took me back that is not a question one expects from a 12-year-old. So, I did what any humble deacon would do and said, “ask Father George/Bijoy”.

I am just kidding. I fumbled around with a reply that basically told her that if He came now, he would be cutting out all those who were not born yet from experiencing eternal life in heaven. I certainly was not completely satisfied with that answer nor was she. After she left, I was struck by the verse in 1 Peter that tells us we should always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks the reason for the hope we have. I was spared because in praying over the question I realized I missed the most obvious response and that was that His coming again will bring judgement to us and in Mercy God holds out a chance for us all to redeem ourselves and to be in the fold of the blessed saved. Little did I know at the time that, this was setting me up for this weekend’s readings. As Scripture tells us seek and we shall find and in reading I

came across this verse from Matthew: MATTHEW 5:17-18 especially the last part..... " For truly I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot will pass from the Law until all is accomplished." .

We do not only not know the hour but we have not the understanding of completely knowing what is too be fully accomplished. These are the things that the good nuns tell us it is just one of those mysteries. Today's readings we see very clearly Jesus showing us our dual responsibility in this life ... to save our souls and to save the souls of as many as we can, and to always keep in mind as Saint Paul tells us in our second reading we all will always be in the Lord whether here on earth or in the heavenly realm.

Our Gospel reading gives us a very clear parable of how we are to approach faith and works. I am sure you have been told often by those of other faiths that Catholics are always trying to work their way to heaven. Even some Catholics scorn the principle of Catholic Social Justice Some are pretty adamant that they are saved by faith alone. One of the resources I use is the Ignatius Study Bible it has great footnote and

commentary. But it has this to say about the parable of the Ten Maidens
.....” Christians are called to be spiritually prepared for the
time of Christ’s coming no one knows, the awaiting of the bridegroom
signifies one’s uncertain life span no one knows the hour of death
and judgement. The lamp is Christian faith, while the oil **represents good
works**, thus faith without works is useless. Souls must prepare for their
personal encounter with Christ by loving God and neighbor since those
lacking good works will be shut out of heavens banquet.”

That makes spiritual sense if we look at it as keeping our eye on the
prize I can imagine most medical students would never put up
with the rigor and stress of their medical school experience if they were
not always keeping their eyes on their graduation into the world of
practicing medicine. Our faith is not in the earthly but in our eventual
graduation into the realm of saints. It is so hard for us to remember that.

First let me say I am the king of foolish comments I stand there
sometimes and these things just blurt out that even I don’t know from
whence it came so I say this not in ridicule but several years

back we were at a family get together at one of my cousins and my cousin was building this shed at the time his dream was to have a place and set up where he could make Hitchcock Chairs. Somehow the end of the world came up. My cousin in all seriousness said, “The world can’t end now I haven’t finished my shed”. It was quiet for a minute and we all started laughing including my cousin who realized how non sensical the comment was. But we all can fall in that trap. The trap of being so entrenched into this world, so entrenched in our goals and plans so entrenched in our philosophies and opinions that we lose sight of the watchfulness our Gospel calls us too. We lose sight of the fact that we are just travelers in this life and this is not our true and final home. Everything we do is done like the medical student who strives to be in the ranks of the doctors in practice. We are students in the end to be in the realm of heavenly saints.

Let us be prayerful and encouraging to each other and may we all always keep our eyes and hearts on the true and only prize that really matters.

