



## The Holy See

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POPE FRANCIS *ANGELUS* Saint Peter's Square

Sunday, 7 August 2016 [\[Multimedia\]](#)

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*Dear Brothers and Sisters, Good morning!*

In the text of today's Gospel (Lk 12:32-48), Jesus speaks to his disciples about the *attitude to assume in view of the final encounter with him*, and explains that the expectation of this encounter should impel us to *live a life full of good works*. Among other things he says: "Sell your possessions, and give alms; provide yourselves with purses that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys" (v. 33). It is a call to give importance to almsgiving as a work of mercy, not to place trust in ephemeral goods, to use things without attachment and selfishness, but according to God's logic, the logic of attention to others, the logic of love. We can be so attached to money, and have many things, but in the end we cannot take them with us. Remember that "the shroud has no pockets".

Jesus' lesson continues with three short parables on the theme of *vigilance*. This is important: vigilance, being alert, being vigilant in life. The first is the parable of the *servants waiting for their master to return at night*. "Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes" (v. 37): it is the beatitude of faithfully awaiting the Lord, of being ready, with an attitude of service. He presents himself each day, knocks at the door of our heart. Those who open it will be blessed, because they will have a great reward: indeed, the Lord will make himself a servant to his servants — it is a beautiful reward — in the great banquet of his Kingdom He himself will serve them. With this parable, set at night, Jesus proposes life as a vigil of diligent expectation, which heralds the bright day of eternity. To be able to enter one must be ready, awake and committed to serving others, from the comforting perspective that, "beyond", it will no longer be we who serve God, but He himself who will welcome us to his table. If you think about it, this already happens today each time we meet the Lord in prayer, or in serving the poor, and above all in the Eucharist, where he prepares a banquet to nourish us of his Word and of his Body.

The second parable describes *the unexpected arrival of the thief*. This fact requires vigilance; indeed, Jesus exhorts: "You also must be ready; for the Son of man is coming at an hour you do not expect" (v. 40).

The disciple is one who awaits the Lord and his Kingdom. The Gospel clarifies this perspective with the third parable: *the steward of a house after the master's departure*. In the first scene, the steward faithfully carries out his tasks and receives compensation. In the second scene, the steward abuses his authority, and beats the servants, for which, upon the master's unexpected return, he will be punished. This scene describes a situation that is also frequent in our time: so much daily injustice, violence and cruelty are born from the idea of behaving as masters of the lives of others. We have only one master who likes to be called not "master" but "Father". We are all servants, sinners and children: He is the one Father.

Jesus reminds us today that the expectation of the eternal beatitude does not relieve us of the duty to render the world more just and more liveable. On the contrary, this very hope of ours of possessing the eternal Kingdom impels us to work to improve the conditions of earthly life, especially of our weakest brothers and sisters. May the Virgin Mary help us not to be people and communities dulled by the present, or worse, nostalgic for the past, but striving toward the future of God, toward the encounter with him, our life and our hope.

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#### **After the Angelus:**

Dear brothers and sisters, unfortunately news of civilian victims of war continues to arrive from Syria, from Aleppo in particular. It is unacceptable that so many defenceless people — even many children — must pay the price of the conflict, the price of closing the heart and of the lack of will of the powerful for peace. Let us be close in prayer and solidarity with our Syrian brothers and sisters, and let us entrust them to the maternal protection of the Virgin Mary. Let us all pray a bit in silence and then recite a *Hail Mary*.

I greet all of you, people of Rome and pilgrims from various countries! Quite a lot of flags are visible!

Today various groups of young men and women are present. I greet you with great affection!

I wish everyone a happy Sunday. Please do not forget to pray for me. Enjoy your lunch.

*Arrivederci!*

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