

AUGUST 10, 2025, MSGR. DAVID REILANDER

Waiting for the master's return could be a theme for the Gospels. The master, of course, is Jesus. We are the slaves. We want to be ready when the master returns. We want to be ready when Jesus returns to us. We want to be ready for the day of our death. No one wants to think about death, but it is the reality that we are in.

Waiting for the master's return... what do we do until the master returns? It is to follow the Christian life, of course. To follow the teaching of Jesus.

What is the teaching of Jesus, then? It is to have faith in him. Faith like the Hebrews had, faith like Abraham had. The Hebrews were warned beforehand about the angel of death who would come, and there were certain preparations that they needed to do on that Passover night. They did. They made the sacrifice of the lamb, they took blood, and put it on the lintels of the doors. And the angel of death passed over. The thief did not break into the house in the middle of the night. And in the middle of that night, when God told them to go, they were ready. They were like the bridesmaids who had their lamps lit, and responded immediately.

So too for us. We need to be able to respond immediately to the Lord when he calls.

When does the Lord call? Whenever we have to love. Most especially, when we have to love the unlovable. When we are called to forgive. Most especially, when we must forgive the unforgivable.

One can't just do it on the moment. One must be prepared. One must meditate upon this. One must create a habit within oneself, as Thomas Aquinas would say. That we are always ready to meet the Lord. Whenever the master returns to us, whenever the master calls, we are ready to respond in that moment.

Take heart of these things. Meditate upon Abraham and Sarah, even in their old age, when all logic would say that they could not have a child. And even though they had no child between themselves throughout their lives, they waited for the miracle. And the miracle happened.

They were prepared in the middle of the night to repel the thief, to accept what the Lord had given to them.

So for us too. We must always be ready to respond. But prepare now. Know what you need to do in order to respond to that call.

This is what we do until the master's return.