

ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
Year B: Ez 17:22-24; Ps 92; 2Cor 5:6-10; Mk 4:26-34  
June 13, 2021  
Fr. David Pignato

The second reading for this Sunday's Mass is often read at the prayer service of a wake, on the vigil of a funeral Mass. St. Paul reminds us that "*we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil*" (2Cor 5:10). These words of Revelation from Sacred Scripture remind us that our whole lives here on earth are a time of preparation for the great and definitive moment when we will meet Jesus Christ who is our Savior. Each of us, at some point, will close our eyes for the last time on this world and then open them upon the next. And, when we do, we will meet Christ to review and discuss how we lived this one life here on earth.

As we go through this life, in preparation to meet Christ, St. Paul says we have to be courageous, "*for we walk by faith, not by sight*" (2Cor 5:7), and we should aspire to please the Lord whom we look forward to meeting at the end of our lives. The way we please the Lord, as we make our way to Him, is by purifying and sanctifying our lives, by growing in virtue and holiness and living as the Lord Jesus taught us, with love for God and others, especially those in need. This is how we seek to please the Lord, as we prepare in this life to meet Him.

Much of our preparation to meet the Lord is done quite consciously on our part, as we make efforts and decisions about how to live. But in the Gospel today, Jesus reminds us that our preparation to meet Him at the end of our lives is also the subject of *God's* work and often plays out quietly and secretly, behind the scenes of our own efforts and awareness. Jesus says, "*This is how it is with the kingdom of God; it is as if a man were to scatter seed on the land and would sleep and rise night and day and through it all the seed would sprout and grow, he knows not how*" (Mk 4:26-27). Just as a seed buried in the ground begins to sprout and grow before it is seen, so does our own sanctification and preparation to meet Christ, as God works on our souls and steers and guides us to grow in virtue. We must always do our part, and seek to cooperate with God, but we must always remember that God is at work, even when we sleep, and His part is always greater and more important than our own. And, if we follow God's lead, we can look forward to the moment when we finally meet Christ and trust that it will be the greatest and most glorious day of our lives.