

# SAID ED November 19, 2017

## The Gift of Life

This is the time of the year in which the Sunday readings are about the end of time. We could get all upset but have to remember Jesus own words. He said "No one knows the day or the hour; neither the angels in Heaven, nor the Son, only the Father knows when time will come for the end of the world.". Most of us have trouble leaving forbidden things alone. We humbly acknowledge that some truth is simply beyond comprehension. Somethings are off-limits to us. Sometimes this is for our own good. Preoccupation with the end of the world can lead to irresponsible living. Paul's letters show how frequently this was the case during the New Testament time when early Christians thought Jesus' return was imminent.

When Jesus spoke of a future, it was not to provide information about how and when the world will end. It was to encourage responsible and faithful living in the present! In the gospel, Jesus speaks to his disciples of the coming destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. He will be persecuted, suffer and die for us. But he moves to words of encouragement when he says "By patient endurance will save your souls." And Jesus warns about being led astray by those who come in his name proclaiming that the end is near.

There are many things more important than knowing when the end will be. One is to see the significance of the fact that the end is not yet here. The end is in God's hands. Faith's main business is not to speculate about the future, but to live faithfully in the present. We are to live wisely and responsibly, being faithful stewards in our days. We don't know how much time any of us has left. But for all of us the end is not yet. We still have life and we still have time. These are gifts from God. We are to be responsible stewards of the talents with which we have been entrusted.

You may remember the recent movie Saving Private Ryan it's about World War II. The movie opens with Private Ryan, now an old man, paying his respects at the grave of a Captain Miller. Years before, in battle, Miller had been responsible for saving Ryan's life but at the cost of his own. With his dying breath the captain had challenged the private to earn the gift he had been given ... the gift of continued life. The film's poignant opening scene shows the aging Private Ryan at the Captain's grave, not just saying thank you but trying to say that he had done his best with the gift of life that Miller had given him.

Have we done our best with the gifts we've been given? If not there is good news. The end is not yet is no time for idleness. It is time to do the work of God's kingdom. The purpose of living is to find faithful, Redemptive, and loving ways to give what we have been given back to God. God will make us adequate for all that lies ahead of us until the very end.

Have a great week!

PS. Please remember our Catholic Ministry Appeal. We are moving slowly toward our goal, but we need everyone's help to make it!

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