



SMALL GROUP NEWSLETTER
ST. MARY OF THE VISITATION PARISH
CAMBRIDGE, (H) ONT.

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

November 12, 2017

Introduction to the Word:

If you have ever been hurt or disappointed then this message series will impact you. At its core, it's on *how to deal with disappointment and strife*. As we look at this important question I encourage you to invite a friend or neighbor to be part of the series- after all our parish family is all about **offering every person in our community a life changing encounter with Jesus**.

Warm Up Activity: (5-10 minutes)

- What is one of your favorite stories of scripture and why?
- What is one area of your life that causes your anxiety and why?
- Does your favorite story of scripture have any advice for your area of anxiety?

Let us pray together our Heart to Home Prayer:

*God Our Heavenly Father, we long to make our thoughts your thoughts,
and our ways your ways. As we prepare with attentive mind and open heart
to hear your Word Lord, we long to be empowered with your Spirit
so that we may bring your Word to our families, our parish and our communities.
This, our prayer, we make through the intercession of Our Lady of the Visitation and in name of
Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.*

GOSPEL (Matthew 25:1-13)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus spoke this parable to the disciples: "The kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. "But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! There will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. "Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour." **The Gospel of the Lord.** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

[Consider hearing again the Sunday Message as Small Group](#)



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Reflection:

Jesus tells a parable about ten bridesmaids. At that time, a bride and groom would get married in one location and then move to the wedding feast or reception, just as we do today. However, the bridesmaids in that time had a different job than they do today. They had a definite service of having torches that burned with oil to light the procession so people could see where they were going.

As with the bridesmaids in the parable, God has given us a definite service. We are to let our light shine through the opportunities to serve that God sends our way so that others can see Jesus, who is represented by the bridegroom in the story. We permit in our life things to land, things to take off and things to circle in our life. The uncertainty, vulnerabilities of life and complexity of life can either cause anxiety or lead us to ask “What’s the Point?” Or they call us to being a Disciple who has the light of Christ ready to shine and share. Pray for the grace to know the definite service God has given you to serve Him today and for the whole of your life.

Questions for Discussion: *(15-20 minutes)*

- Father outlined three steps to dealing with Anxiety in his message – how do they apply to the areas which cause you the most anxiety. These steps were: *Identify the Problem, Secure the Promise, Recall the Provision.*

Moving Forward in Prayer *(15-20 minutes)*

(This time is reserved for quiet prayer as well as for an action-response to the communal reflections. You may wish to create and add petitions of prayer at this time. This time also intent to provide moments to connect and “outreach” to the larger community.)

- Name an area of your life where anxiety has taken over and you are asking “What’s the Point” and decide to use the three steps above to strive to let His light be ready in your life.
- Start talking about Advent and how your group wants to make it special – consider the Kindness Counts Campaign and Red Stocking project which will begin very soon.

GROUP PRAYER COMMITMENT

- Offer a Holy Hour in Adoration for the intentions of our Parish and its Pastor.

Leader: **Let us seek the intercession of the Patroness of our Parish as we pray:**
Hail Mary

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