

LOOKING TO SUNDAY™

Sunday, July 19, 2009

This email, entitled *Looking to Sunday™*, focuses on the Gospel Reading for the coming Sunday. It prepares readers to hear God's Word at Mass and it offers a point of reflection to consider in the days leading to Sunday. *Looking to Sunday* is written by Father Tom Iwanowski.

AN INCONVENIENT TIME

As Christians we know we are to help others. We are to love our neighbor. We are to do good for others. In fact, Jesus tells us that we will be judged according to how we responded to the needs of the hungry, the thirsty, the sick, the stranger, the naked, the ill, and the imprisoned. (Matthew 25:21-46)

Yet so often occasions to be of service just come at the wrong time, at an inconvenient time. Our day is packed, and that's the day when a sick neighbor needs a ride to the doctor. We in the midst of craziness, and our elderly parents stop by for a visit. We are at the office with a project deadline fast approaching, and we notice a co-worker upset and distraught. Our wallet is running on empty, and we're asked to make a contribution to charity.

In this Sunday's Gospel (Mark 6:30-34), we read how Jesus and his disciples were swamped with work – good work! “People were coming and going in great numbers, and they had no opportunity even to eat.” (Mark 6:32) So Jesus and his disciples decide to get away, to take a “mini-vacation” from ministry. But when they arrive at their get away spot, they discover crowds of people waiting for them. Jesus could have said come back later, not now. Instead he responded to their needs. It was at that moment the people were thirsty for his words, hungry for his message.

Opportunities to be of service don't just come when we have the time and the inclination to respond. Very often they come, as they did for Jesus and his disciples, at an inconvenient time.

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