

## ***LOOKING TO SUNDAY®***

**Sunday, October 2, 2011**

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.

### **TENANTS**

If you sent a teacher into a classroom that had no desks, textbooks, paper, pens, computers, or proper heat and lighting, it would be unfair to expect that teacher to produce well educated students.

If you sent a cook into a kitchen that had no stove, sink, refrigerator, or utensils, and the pantry shelves were devoid of food, it would be unreasonable to expect that chef to prepare a meal.

If you sent a doctor to work in a hospital that had no beds, medical equipment, medicine, or support staff, it would be foolish to think that doctor could relieve the suffering of the sick.

If you want teachers to teach, chefs to cook, and doctors to heal, those professionals need to be provided with the necessary tools and equipment to do what is expected.

In this Sunday's Gospel (Matthew 21:33-43), Jesus tells a parable about a landowner who leases his vineyard to tenants, with the expectation that they will present him with wine at vintage time. But before sending those tenants into the vineyard, the landowner does what is necessary so they can do what he expects. The parable says that the landowner "planted a vineyard, put a hedge around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a tower."

When vintage time came, the tenants refused to honor their commitment to the landowner. In fact, they did more than just refuse, they mistreated and even killed the servants who were sent to collect the landowner's share of the produce. They even killed his son.

There was no excuse for their wretched behavior, no excuse why they could not produce. The owner had given them everything they needed.

God, the creator of all things, has sent us into his "vineyard." We are the tenant farmers to whom God has entrusted his creation and his Church. God expects us produce a harvest of goodness, mercy, and love. God expects us to hasten the coming of his kingdom.

Like the landowner of the parable, God has given us all we need to do what he asks. God has blessed us with the gift of faith. God has given us his word and wisdom in the scriptures. God has blessed us with time, 1,440 minutes each and every day. God has allotted us certain talents and abilities. God has blessed us with financial resources, even in this recession we have far more than most of the world. God blesses us with all we need to do his work.

Like the landowner, God sends his servants to collect the harvest that he expects. The charitable appeals we receive in the mail; the requests for help we hear at Mass; the pain and suffering brought before us in the media; the lonely senior or wayward teenager in the neighborhood; may all be servants sent by God to collect the goodness he expects of us.

Like the landowner, God has every right to a harvest of goodness from his tenants!

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