

Homily XIX Ord Aug 08, 2010

Speaking of weddings, I hope you all had a good time at Chelsea's and Marc's wedding. I wasn't invited - - I'm not envious - - I just hope you had a good time. Some people in today's world get an important invitation, but miss it! They were too busy talking on their cell phones, or listening to their music through clip-on earphones, or watching Jersey Shore on their hand held videos. I'm not talking about Chelsea's and Marc's wedding. As far as I know, everyone that was invited arrived in time.

But missing important invitations happens a lot these days, but it's nothing new. In today's gospel reading, Jesus tells the parable of the servants < who await their master's return from a wedding >. Some were rewarded, some were punished. < . . . Peter said , Lord, is this parable meant for us or for everyone? >" endq.

I think the parable is meant for all of us today who live in an atmosphere of constant cacophony . . . continual noise. But I have it on good authority that there is a way to listen to and be ready for the master. Matthew Kelly is my authority. He is young, handsome and a convincing speaker . . . so you don't have to take my word for it. Matthew Kelly has a chapter in his book: Rediscovering Catholicism titled "Contemplation", and I think he describes an easy and manageable way to listen to our personal invitation from the master. He calls deliberate and prayerful pausing for a few minutes ' the classroom of silence'. I call it: the sacramental of the pause. You know what sacramentals are - - blessed pictures or statues or candles that help us to pray.

Matthew Kelly says, "I will make two promise to you. In silence you will find God. In the silence you will find yourself" endq. I think that this is a sacramental that can be part of our lives no matter how young or old we are, and no matter where we happen to be. Even teens on the move can pause for two or three minutes and give their thumbs a rest from texting. If we can spare 5 or 10 minutes of silence to listen to our special invitation from God, even better.

What will God say to you? I don't know. I only know what he says to me: Ted, use your gifts and talents .. or as Matthew Kelly would say, be the best version of yourself. Need help? Look again at this book: Ministry Opportunities - Time, Talent and Treasure - Stewardship in Action. Besides the clergy - the deacons and priests - the laity that keep our parish going need your help: Terry Keach, Marie Marton, Peggy Malvaso, John Paradiso, and Dan Anderson.

Jesus says < Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more >.