

Meditation 2014-03-04
Feast of Saint Casimir
Meditation Theme: “Am I Ready Now?”

Place yourself in the presence of Jesus Christ. Make sure He knows that every thought, action, and experience of today is dedicated exclusively to Him.

The Scenario: From the Gospel of today’s Mass

AT that time, Jesus said to His disciples: Let your loins be girt, and lamps burning in your hands. And you yourselves like to men who wait for their lord, when he shall return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open to him immediately. Blessed are those servants, whom the Lord when he cometh, shall find watching. Amen I say to you, that he will gird himself, and make them sit down to meat, and passing will minister unto them. And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants. But this know ye, that if the householder did know at what hour the thief would come, he would surely watch, and would not suffer his house to be broken open. Be you then also ready: for at what hour you think not, the Son of man will come.

Point 1. – The Lord is coming, returning from the “wedding.” It is our duty to be ready for Him.

Point 2. – We do not know when He will arrive. He tells us in this parable that it may be at any time.

Point 3. – To be prepared we must have the spiritual equivalent of being properly attired and with Lamps burning.

Meditation: There is a warning here. Jesus tells his disciples that the Householder (viz.: Himself) is due to arrive from a wedding celebration, and He may arrive at any time. He fully expects to find us awaiting Him, no matter what time He might choose to arrive. He knows when He will be here, and He hasn’t told us. We need to be ready at all times. If we knew the arrival time beforehand, we would wait until the last minute to prepare.

What preparations are necessary if I am to be there when Jesus calls for me? Do I have any indication when that might be? How old am I? Do I expect to live a much longer time yet? Am I old and sickly, knowing that my time must be soon? Even if I am relatively young, can I count on surviving tomorrow? Might I not even wake up tomorrow? Death comes “like a thief in the night.” (*I Thessalonians 5:2*) Can I count on the very special grace that would allow me to know the time of my own death? Should I not be prepared to die at any time? Is it possible that I might die at any time? I may be young and in the best of health, and yet death can certainly come upon me. How can I prevent it from catching me unprepared?

Do I confess my sins regularly? Have I tried to make Confession a personal habit? Do I tell myself that, as long as I am not in the state of Mortal Sin, I don’t really need it? Do I count on my own strength to deal with temptation? Has that ever worked in the past? Have I ever bragged to myself “I just won’t do that!” and then wound up doing it anyway?

Do I avoid temptations, occasions of sin? Do I go skating on thin ice, filled with self-confidence that I will be able to avoid falling through? Is it wrong to even go out on the thin ice knowing that, even if I think I am being careful, I might wind up falling through? What protections can I absolutely count on? Am I properly attired? Do I have my well-fueled lamp burning? Am I ready to meet my Lord whenever He might come?

Colloquy: Take a minute or two to converse with God, in any of His three Persons, or the Triune God complete in Himself. Tell Him what you have learned from your meditation, and thank Him for it.

Hold the Gain: Consider what you can do to keep the fruits of your meditation. Try to plan how you can think of them through the day, and through the days ahead. Come up with ways you can apply your conclusions to what you do in your everyday life, conversations you engage in, the choice of what movie to watch, what books you choose to read.