

LOOKING TO SUNDAY®

Sunday, January 25, 2015

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.

WHAT'S THE TIME?

"What time is it?"

We can answer that question by reporting the information we see on our wristwatch, wall clock, cell phone, computer, or other device that indicates the time of day. Checking one of those devices we might say it is 6 am, 2:45 pm, 9:30 pm, or whatever the exact time might be.

But we can also answer that question another way. We might say that it's time for breakfast, time to go to work, time for school, time for our gym session, time for the meeting, time to set the table, time to go to bed, etc. Rather than giving a chronological response, we might indicate what needs to be done at the particular moment the question is asked.

In this Sunday's Gospel (Mark 1:14-20), Jesus gives an answer that might be taken as a response to the question, "What time is it?" Jesus says, "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."

The answer Jesus gave tells us what time it is NOW, not just what time it was when he first spoke those words some 2,000 years ago.

Jesus is telling us that now is the time that God is working in our world, slowly transforming it into what it would be if sin had not deformed its beauty and set humanity against itself and against God. Jesus is telling us to cooperate with the action of God, to take the Gospel to heart, and to turn away from those attitudes and actions that slow the coming of God's kingdom of love, justice, and peace.

In short, Jesus is telling us this is the time for us to reorient our lives so they conform to the values of the Gospel and to the example that he gave us by his life and ministry.

After announcing, "This is the time of fulfillment," Jesus calls Peter, Andrew, James, and John to follow him. Jesus tells them now is the time for them to put aside their boats and their nets and to become his disciples. They respond by radically changing their direction in life. They go from being catchers of fish to "fishers of men." They do not ignore the invitation of Jesus, they do not let the moment for accepting his invitation slip by.

What time is it? It's time for us to get our priorities in order and to start cooperating with God for the sake of God's kingdom.

That answer is worth bringing to mind whenever we check the time of day. *It's the time of fulfillment.*

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