

# **LOOKING TO SUNDAY®**

**Sunday, April 19, 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.

## **GOD IS A PLANNER**

There are two kinds of people in this world. There are those who plan their day and those who let the day plan them.

Before they begin their day, planners think about what they absolutely need to accomplish and those things they might like to do if time permits. They also consider possible interruptions and the expectations that others might have of them. Then they plan their day accordingly.

Those who do not plan ahead allow their day to be determined by their changing moods and feelings, circumstances, interruptions, events, and other people.

But planning is not restricted to looking just at one day. Real planners look at their entire lives. They consider the schools they would like to attend, the careers they might like to pursue, the people they would like to call friends, the kinds of families they might like to have, and the goals they would like to set for themselves.

The scripture readings we hear this Sunday and every Sunday remind us that God is a planner.

When humanity used the free will God had given it to turn away from him and sin, God did not simply let humanity wander off on its own from sin to sin. God developed a plan to bring humanity back into the faithful, loving relationship that God had envisioned. God developed a plan of salvation.

We see that plan of God working itself out in the pages of the Scriptures. The covenant with Abraham, the exodus from slavery, the journey to the Promised Land, the Kingdom of David, the exile in Babylon, the return to Jerusalem, and so on were not random events but part of God's plan of salvation as it unfolded in human history.

The plan then continued with the life and ministry of Jesus. The Gospel reading for this Sunday (Luke 24:35-48) proclaims that the passion and death of Jesus were also part of God's plan, a plan prophesied in the Old Testament. They were not simply the result of the jealousy and fear of certain Jewish religious leaders and an unjust decision by a Roman governor.

The Resurrection was the highpoint of that divine plan. As the Risen Lord told his disciples, "Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem."

God's plan of salvation continues today as the Church preaches the life-changing news of the Resurrection and proclaims the forgiveness of sins and the promise of everlasting life.

The plan of salvation included the Death and Resurrection of Jesus and it wondrously includes all those who embrace Jesus as their Savior and Lord.

God has a plan. And we are part of it!

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