Deacon Tommy

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time | Full Homily Transcript

Today, the subject of wisdom is at center for us. We hear this whole first reading from the Book of Wisdom about wisdom. And what is wisdom more so than God Himself?

God is the epitome of all wisdom in the universe times infinity, and that still doesn't scratch the surface of the wisdom that God actually is. That wisdom that's just sitting there waiting for us. And God wants us to tap into that wisdom. Even more than that, He wants us to pursue it. But He doesn't make us chase Him.

As a matter of fact, wisdom is compared to a wonderful woman. I get it. Wisdom is a woman, and that's indeed...

No, but wisdom is compared to this wonderful woman. And the more we seek this wonderful woman in the Book of Wisdom, in that first reading, the more she seeks us. In fact, it says if you wake up in the morning and go outside to look for her, she'll be sitting at the gate.

This is God. This is an invitation from God, brothers and sisters. He wants us to seek wisdom. He wants us to pursue Him. But He's not going to try to be elusive. The more we seek and pursue, the more He will come to us.

How beautiful is that? All of the wisdom in the world at our fingertips. He just wants us to want it in our heart.

And here Jesus, in these past Gospels, particularly in the last three or four weeks or so and throughout the week, there has been so much emphasis on not just what we do, but how we do it and why we do it.

And once again, we don't want to pursue wisdom just for the cold idea of having more wisdom or because God wants us to and we need to check that box.

No, Jesus has been asking us for the last several weeks in these Gospels to don't just check a box. Check a box, yes, but check it because it's in our heart. Check it because we love Him with all of our heart and we're ready to pour ourselves out to the last drop, just like He did for us.

And this is certainly the invitation here today.

And today we have these ten virgins that we have just read about. Five were prudent, five were wise, it says, and five were foolish. And it was all about preparation.

So they're here waiting. Their job is to light the way for the bridegroom to go to the bride's house and to enter into the wedding feast. A very big deal in the culture and a big celebration.

Well, five of them just simply aren't prepared for it. They come with a little bit of oil in their lamps, and then the other five, they're armed for bear, as we say. They're ready for whatever. They come with flasks in addition to their lamps. They're ready. That way they can be ready for the bridegroom to come whenever he is ready to come.

And that's what happens. It shows he is delayed, and those who did not prepare well find themselves without oil. And then they go to the ones that did prepare themselves and ask for help.

But I always thought that was interesting. Is that good that the five that were prepared refused to help their sisters there?

But I think the idea in particular, at least the way it struck me this time as I prepared for this homily, I think the idea here is a gentle reminder that yes, we are always here to help one another. And we should always be ready to either receive some oil for our lamp from our brothers and sisters or be willing to offer some oil to our brothers and sisters for their lamps.

Absolutely do this. But the Scripture does show us that the time will come in the series of events. Someday we have to stand on our own before the Lord, and we have to be accountable for the way we've prepared our hearts and the way we've prepared and the way we have attempted to serve Him.

How have we prioritized things? How have we organized our life to be ready for the coming of the Lord?

At some point, as much as we help each other, and we want to help each other, this is certainly what this Christian family is all about. But at some point, we have to stand before the Lord and say, "You were in my heart, Lord, and I've tried everything I could to be ready for You."

And I feel like that might be what they're telling us here by these five virgins refusing to help the five that were less prepared.

But at any rate, some went in and rejoiced, and some were left outside and missed the boat, so to speak.

But this doesn't, as grim as that sounds, it doesn't have to be. And God willing, that will never happen to any of us.

We are so blessed. We can't help but find God's wisdom. It's all around us. We have so many opportunities.

Just imagine, there are so many things we can talk about. Let's just focus on the Eucharist, because certainly that's the summit.

Just the Eucharist itself, the presence of God, God's flesh and blood present in our midst, there for us to take into our own bodies. All of the wisdom, all of the knowledge in the world is in that little host.

As St. John Paul II said to that effect one time, all of the answers to all of the problems in the world are in this tiny host.

Think about that. That is at our disposal. Here in a few minutes, we get to interact with the Eucharist yet again. Wisdom at its very finest.

Another way to encounter the Eucharist is through Adoration.

And I'm ashamed to tell you that, in terms of Adoration, I get Adoration at times, and a decent amount of it, doing Benedictions and leading Adoration for other groups and so on and so forth. But just for myself to go on the first Friday and sit there alone with God and my thoughts, I had not made time for that in a

while.

And one of my dear brothers here, Rory, sent out an email reminding us we need some coverage for the first Friday because the wee hours of the morning sometimes are hard to cover, from midnight to, say, four or five in the morning.

And we don't want the Lord to be left alone.

And I was like, that's my cue, because I've been meaning to do it, meaning to do it.

But I was able to scrape myself up, my brothers and sisters. I went and sat in front of the Eucharist in the chapel from 4:30 in the morning until 6:30. And it actually became 6:40 because I didn't want to leave.

I thought it was going to be a long time and so forth. It seemed like the clock was racing.

And the other interesting thing was, I came with an agenda of my own.

I was like, I'm going to preach Sunday morning. I need to think about that. What a great place to do it, in front of the Eucharist.

I was going to be a part of a Cursillo event here yesterday and participate in that, and I wanted to think about how to do that. So I was going to talk to the Lord about that in front of Adoration.

All of these different things that I had on my plate that I had prioritized, and that would have been fine.

But something else kept coming into my head. Another subject entirely, and it wouldn't leave me alone. And it kept coming into my head.

I'm like, oh man, I need to quit thinking about this. It's distracting me from what I need to do.

And then I realized finally, about 30 or 40 minutes in, it's like, no, the Lord wants me to talk to Him about this situation.

And indeed I did. And I blasted through the last hour and a half of Adoration. I did not want it to end, and it went by so fast.

And I can tell you there's something so special, and it's been a while since I did it this way, but there's something so special about being there in the wee hours of the morning.

Yes, it might be hard to get up and get over here, but boy, the peace and the quiet and the serenity of that time with God.

Father Walsh always said, if we have trouble wondering or being convinced that Christ is present in the Eucharist, the best way to approach that and to work on that in our hearts is to sit before Christ in the Eucharist.

And boy, is that the truth.

So if we haven't done that in a while, or we have done it in a while, maybe we could consider that being at the very center of our prioritizing seeking wisdom, seeking it out, seeking it with all of our heart.

We will be given the most beautiful gifts. And that's just one little facet that we have as Catholic Christians to pursue wisdom and all of the benefits that come with it.

One little exercise, one little style of prayer, and there are so many others.

We have 2,000-plus years of tradition teaching us how to seek knowledge and wisdom and understanding, and in the process find God and invite Him into our lives.

So may we invite Him into our life.

This is the most special time, a most special time of the year to do so, as we're about to wrap up this liturgical year with the Feast of Christ the King, and then we're about to start over again.

We're about to go into that darkness and wait for the light to come into our life at Christmas.

So we have an exciting and sacred 30 or 40 days coming up. May we use it to seek wisdom, to seek God, to seek Christ with all of our heart.

And if we do, He will certainly be waiting right at the gate for us with all of the answers.

Amen.