

Gird your loins

Prepare for battle

Life is difficult

It is a battle

For the Israelites

For the disciples

For us today

That is a constant for all generations

But are we prepared?

Do we know there is a battle going on?

Are we preparing for the right battle?

It can be easy to get caught up in things that really don't matter

Things that belong to this world

Yes, they are important for this life

But if we put all our energies

All our efforts into these battles

Are we preparing for eternity?

Are we letting our light go out?

At an hour you do not expect

The Son of Man will return

We can see this in two ways

One, it speaks of the second coming of Christ

The end of the world as we know it

It will happen

Christ has promised it

But there is another way to look at this

It speaks of our personal death

Something most do not like to consider

But something that we will all face

At some point

We may live into our 90's or beyond

We may be face to face with Christ this very day

Are we ready?

If we put off preparations

We are like the foolish servants

Where is my treasure?

Where is my heart?

Do I have faith?

Or do I simply believe?

There is a difference

Satan believes in God

He believes in Christ

I can believe in China and Australia

Even though I have never been there

I believe they exist

Studies show 95% of Americans believe in God

Almost as many believe there is life after death

Where good will be rewarded and evil punished

But this is not faith

Where are all these people today?

Why are they not worshipping God?

They go to worship St Serta

They go to worship golf or baseball or basketball

They go to worship at the Wal-Mart altar

Many claim to be 'spiritual' but not 'religious'

Faith is not believing Jesus is the Son of God

It is not believing that he died and rose

Faith is personal

As Pope Francis wrote in his encyclical *Lumen Fidei*

It is believing in him

Entrusting ourselves to him

Entrusting our loved ones to him

Because he is trustworthy

We take a risk

And we are confident we will be rewarded

The Father is pleased to give us the kingdom

He desires to give us his kingdom

But we need to prepare

We need to do battle

We need faith

A faith that forms us

A faith that changes us

A faith that is alive

A faith that pleases the one we have faith in

We are called to be like servants awaiting their master's return

So he will find us at work

Prepared to open the door to him

Preparing our hearts for the master's return

Preparing true treasure no moth can destroy

This is true faith

Belief that leads to action

Faith that leads to eternity