



ARCHDIOCESE OF PALO
 CATECHETICAL MINISTRY
 MODULE 12 Family Catechesis
 November 22, 2020
 34th Sunday in Ordinary Time Cycle A
Matthew 25:31-46
THEME: CHRIST IS OUR KING

1. INTRODUCTION


Talk about any contests or competitions that have judges on them? It may be one of those they have watched or have joined themselves (such as school drawing or song competition or TV shows like The Voice Kids Philippines, etc.).

How does one feel, knowing he or she is being judged? What should you do to get good points from the judges?

Lead the participants to realize that in most of competitions or shows, the judges are responsible for making decisions that ensure that contestants get what they deserve.

Jesus knows each one of us very well. He will use his knowledge and understanding about us when he returns to judge all people.

Today we celebrate *Christ the King*. Jesus reminds us that his judgment of us will be based on one thing. Let’s see how Jesus will judge us




OPENING PRAYER

Christ Jesus, I acknowledge You King of the universe. All that has been created has been made for You. Make full use of Your rights over me.

I renew the promises I made in Baptism, when I renounced Satan and all his pomps and works, and I promise to live a good Christian life and to do all in my power to procure the triumph of the rights of God and Your Church.

Divine Heart of Jesus,
 I offer you my efforts
 in order to obtain that all hearts
 may acknowledge your Sacred Royalty,
 and that thus the Kingdom of Your peace
 may be established throughout the universe

<https://www.catholic.org/prayer>



PHASE ONE


REMEMBER THE STORY OF JESUS

1.1 Proclamation of the Gospel Story

(Enthroned the Bible on a prepared table with lighted candle. Welcome the Word of God with Alleluia or Gospel Acclamation. May use Binisaya/Cebuano Bible version

A moment of prayerful silence

We will not be able to understand Word of God unless God himself opens our hearts. Let us now welcome Jesus as he speaks to us through his Word



A reading from the Gospel of Matthew 25:31-56

1.2 Brief Guided silent Meditation / Personal Prayer

Some questions to help us in our personal reflection.

- How do you feel listening to the story on last judgement?
- What image or picture of Jesus is used from the story to judge us?
- How will Jesus judge us?

(leave some moments for reflections)

1.3 Text in Context

1.Who is speaking in the story? How does Jesus call himself in this particular story? *Son of God*

2. If you were to draw the scene right at beginning of this story, what picture would it be?

Jesus as king sits on a throne surrounded by the angels appears to all the people of the earth brought before his presence.

3.What is Jesus like in judging the people?

He is like a shepherd separating the sheep from the goat. Those who show kindness to others, he gathers to his right where the sheep are. And those who fail to do something good to others, he gathers to his left where the goats are.

Matthew uses the picture of two animals- sheep and goats. The sheep is a favourite image used in Bible. God says that we are his sheep. Psalm 95:7 says, “He is our God. We are the sheep belonging to His flock. We are the people He takes good care of. Listen to His voice today.” Jesus called himself the Good Shepherd

Why has “sheep” become the favourite image in the Bible? The sheep cannot live by themselves. They are to be taken care of when they are brought out in the field where there are lots of dangers from wild animals and cliffs where they can fall. Sheep have a strong sense of knowing who their master is. Sheep are calm when their shepherd is around. Having learned to trust the shepherd, they will follow him anywhere. When rain comes they know, the shepherd will gently move them to shelter. When they are hungry, the shepherd will take them to the grassy land. They are sure that the shepherd takes care of all their needs.

Goats, instead, can be left on their own in the field. They eat anything to satisfy their hunger. Even a mother goat will not mind her young while being fed, though she may bump then out with her head, to the field to get for their own food. They are troublesome animals who would do all the means to get what they want. The shepherd must have hard times with them.

4.When are we like the sheep? When are we like the goat?

5.What does Jesus based his judgments on? (whether or not people fed him when he was hungry, clothed him when he was naked, and so on)

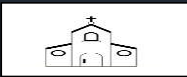
6. How does Jesus respond when the people ask “When did we see you hungry? Naked?”

Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.”)

Jesus will judge us based on how we treat the least ones among us. He further says that whenever we show mercy to one of the least ones among us, we show mercy to Jesus himself. In short, he will judge us based on LOVE we show to others.

The celebration of Christ the King tells us that Christ has the authority to judge us. He is not a king interested in power and glory but in serving the needs of others. He will judge us based on how we love as he showed us in the many stories in the Gospel. Jesus is our king, so we owe him our loyalty and obedience

PHASE II REFLECT the Story
of the Church
(Teachings of the Church)



Whenever we think of the **last judgement**, we cannot help but fear death. We cannot imagine how God will judge us at the end of our life. Let us consider three points:

First point: In a wedding ceremony, there is always that joyful waiting of the bride for the groom at the altar. How nice to see them together, publicly saying their love for each other. The Church, referring to us believers, is the bride who waits for Christ, the bridegroom’s embrace and loving hugs
This popular wedding song may capture the joy of the bridegroom meeting his bride:
*So as long as I live I love you
Will have and hold you
You look so beautiful in white
And from now 'til my very last breath
This day I'll cherish
You look so beautiful in white*

We, as the bride, will wear the glorious garment of Christ, *saying Maranatha*, come Lord Jesus, “Yes, the Lord is coming, the Lord is near”. This prayer is very timely for the coming of the season of Advent which starts next week. Let us use this moment to examine ourselves how we are in seeing Jesus in those persons who are in need as we end the Church calendar.

Second point: At the time of judgement, we are not left alone. While it is true that we say goodbye to our life on earth, at the time of death, Christ, the King of the Universe welcomes us together with the Father and the Holy Spirit in the company of all the saints. The angels and saints rejoice at our joining them. We altogether need not do or wish anything but adore God, our eternal happiness.

Third point:
“God sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. He who believes in him is not condemned; he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God” (Jn 3:17-18). Christ is the Good Shepherd and King. Jesus became one of us, who lived among us. He came to rescue us from our weaknesses and failures. By his examples, we came to know how to love from which we often fail but he grants us the grace of time to come back to him to be sorry for our sins.
The final judgement is already happening as we do ordinary things daily over the course of our lives. It is a

matter of choice. If we want to experience his saving love we will allow Christ to help us in our moments of doubts and fears. *But if we close ourselves to the love of Jesus, we condemn ourselves. Salvation is to open oneself to Jesus, it is he who saves us. If we are sinners — and we all are — we ask him for forgiveness and if we go to him with the desire to be good, the Lord forgives us.*

PHASE THREE RESPOND – with/ in my personal
faith /community faith story

Let us give concrete actions of LOVING others, first in the family, in our community or even those away from us. Do we know anyone near us who is sick or hungry?

What can we do to the people who were badly affected by Typhoon Ulysses. Have you read or heard any appeal to help them? What can we do as a group or as a family?



CLOSING PRAYER

O Lord our God, You alone are the Most Holy King and Ruler of all nations.
We pray to You, Lord, in the great expectation of receiving from You, O Divine King, mercy, peace, justice and all good things.
Protect, O Lord our King, our families and the land of our birth.
Guard us we pray Most Faithful One.
Protect us from our enemies and from Your Just Judgment.
Forgive us, O Sovereign King, our sins against you.
Jesus, You are a King of Mercy.
We have deserved Your Just Judgment
Have mercy on us, Lord, and forgive us.
We trust in Your Great Mercy.
O most awe-inspiring King, we bow before You and pray;
May Your Reign, Your Kingdom, be recognized on earth.
Amen.
<https://mycatholic.life/catholic-prayers/prayer-to-christ-the-king/>

BACKGROUND FOR THE CATECHISTS

CCC 679 Christ is Lord of eternal life. Full right to pass definitive judgment on the works and hearts of men belongs to him as redeemer of the world. He "acquired" this right by his cross. The Father has given "all judgment to the Son". Yet the Son did not come to judge, but to save and to give the life he has in himself. By rejecting grace in this life, one already judges oneself, receives according to one's works, and can even condemn oneself for all eternity by rejecting the Spirit of love.

CCC 1041 The message of the Last Judgment calls men to conversion while God is still giving them "the acceptable time, . . . the day of salvation. It inspires a holy fear of God and commits them to the justice of the Kingdom of God. It proclaims the "blessed hope" of the Lord's return, when he will come "to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at in all who have believed."
References:
<http://www.popefrancishomilies.com/last-judgement>
<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic> resources
<https://ocarm.org/en/lectio>