

Homily — 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time, C, 2019
by Rev. Bob Schramm, OSFS

That parable Jesus tells about the master returning from the wedding feast takes a strange twist. Why would the Master sit the help down and wait on them? Shouldn't they be waiting on him . . . or her?

Here's another story that may help in appreciating the twist in the parable. It's a story about a 24-year-old man who's dying from cancer. "That's too young," you may be thinking.

Some years before his cancer diagnosis the young man had taken a class taught by a famous Jesuit psychologist named John Powell. Powell wrote a book called, *Unconditional Love*, which many of us read.

Just after the 24-year old's terminal cancer diagnosis, he had an opportunity to speak with Rev. Powell. He said, "Father, you once told us something in class that has made it easier for me to die young. You said, 'There are only two potential tragedies in life, and dying young isn't one of them. The first is that if you go through life and don't love. The second is if you go through life and you don't tell those you love that you love them.'"

The young man went on to say, "When the doctors told me that my cancer was terminal, I realized how much I've been loved. And I've expressed my love. People ask me, 'What's it like being 24 years old and dying?' I tell them, 'It's not so bad. It beats being 50 years old and being lonely.'"

I think that's the heart of what Jesus is saying in the parable about the master waiting on the servants. The master caught a glimpse about what's at the heart of real happiness. His waiting on those servants was a way of showing his appreciation and his gratitude for so very much. Not something you'd expect from a master in that situation. Unless, of course, Jesus is the Master.

**Jesus, the Master, does it every time we gather for this meal.
And in doing that, he hopes to pass on to all the rest of us
a glimpse of the way this world is meant to be after all.**

**We usually take some moments to be quiet and reflective after the homily.
This morning we'll extend that a little bit
so we can all ponder a couple of questions.**

- 1. How do we live our lives in such a way
that death does not catch us by surprise?**
- 2. What do we do that so we don't leave this world
with too much unfinished business?**

**May God be blessed.
Both now and forever.**