

Devotional Tools: **SeniorWalk**



The families we were born into have rituals and expectations that everyone knows. What are the spoken and unspoken expectations of your family? What do you feel you must do as a member of your family?

We are adopted into the family of God through baptism. As we live into the Word of God, we learn the expectations of being a member of God's family, too. As a member of God's family, what do you hold yourself accountable for? What do you think God will hold you accountable for?

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the believers from the unbelievers. He will say to the believers, come inherit the kingdom prepared for you because you have been faithful servants. As we live our lives as Christians, will we be selected as faithful or unfaithful believers in God's judgment?

We struggle as members of God's family to do the right thing. We question whether our participation in this family even makes a difference. There are those who have so much more than we do, and can do so much more than we can. We think what we can accomplish will not mean much in the scheme of things. We may even believe that we need to work harder to accomplish great things for God in order to belong.

Yet, in today's Gospel we are told we will receive our inheritance in the Kingdom of

God because we fed the hungry, provided drink to the thirsty, welcomed the stranger, clothed the naked, and visited the sick and imprisoned. And, as we were compassionate and ministered to the least of these in this world, we were ministering directly to God.

Little things do matter, and God entrusts us with these. Each of us is asked to be welcoming, forgiving and loving to the sick, the marginalized, the poor, the widows, the orphans, the homeless, the disadvantaged, the hungry, and those who are different from us. On judgment day, God probably won't ask us how much we earned.

We make it so difficult to be active participants in God's family. All that we have belongs to God and should be used to care for God's family. Each of us is called to tend to the family. When we use our gifts and talents to the glory of God, we are ministering to the children of the family.

“Truly, I say to you, as you did this to one of least of these my children, you did it to me.” In all that you do for the children of God, look and see Jesus Christ in their faces and remember that you, a faithful servant, are filling the needs of the family of God.

Lord, you have prepared us to be your instruments. We pray that the music we make is precious to your ear, and that these instruments are used for your glory. Amen.