

7 Secrets of Confession

Secret 3: Your Sin is Different from My Sin

Luke 12:35-48

Gird your loins and light your lamps and be like servants who await their master's return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival. Amen, I say to you, he will gird himself, have them recline at table, and proceed to wait on them. And should he come in the second or third watch and find them prepared in this way, blessed are those servants. Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour when the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come." Then Peter said, "Lord, is this parable meant for us or for everyone?" And the Lord replied, "Who, then, is the faithful and prudent steward whom the master will put in charge of his servants to distribute the food allowance at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master on arrival finds doing so. Truly, I say to you, he will put him in charge of all his property. But if that servant says to himself, 'My master is delayed in coming,' and begins to beat the menservants and the maidservants, to eat and drink and get drunk, then that servant's master will come on an unexpected day and at an unknown hour and will punish him severely and assign him a place with the unfaithful. That servant who knew his master's will but did not make preparations nor act in accord with his will shall be beaten severely; and the servant who was ignorant of his master's will but acted in a way deserving of a severe beating shall be beaten only lightly. Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more.

Reflection on Scripture

How does this passage challenge the idea that sin is just 'bad behavior'? What does it reveal about how our personal responsibility before God can differ from person to person?

Book Discussion Questions

“Only God can accurately judge whether this sin – for you – is mortal or venial” (p. 55). How does this challenge our mortal vs. venial sin mentality when entering Confession?

How do you think we can shift from the “thou shall not” to what does God want me to do? In what ways can you move beyond simply avoiding sin to actively seeking God’s will in your daily life?

“Do whatever He tells you,” Mary at the Wedding at Cana (John 2:5). What areas of your life come to mind when you hear these words? Are there ways you’ve sensed God calling you to act or grow, but you’ve been delaying or avoiding it?
