



*Let us not sleep as the rest do,
but let us stay alert and sober.*

1 THESSALONIANS 5:6

Ready or Not, Here I Come

As children we called out this chant when playing hide-and-seek. However, it could very well describe the message of two of today's readings. Paul reminds the Thessalonians that "the day of the Lord will come like a thief at night" (1 Thessalonians 5:2). The Gospel tells a story about a man who returns after a long journey and intends to settle accounts with those whom he put in charge of his household. In both instances, the one returning might cry out, "Ready or not, here I come!" The point of each story: Be ready! But how? The Thessalonians are told they "are children of the light" (5:5). The Gospel suggests what that expression might mean—be responsible for what has been given to you.

In the Gospel, some servants fully use the talents given to them. However, one servant buries what he received. If that was not bad enough, that servant alleged fear of the householder as reason for his lack of initiative. If he knew that the householder was as demanding as he stated he was, he should have realized that his master would expect him to use what had been given. There is no excuse here in refusing to use what was given, nor in blaming the householder.

All of us have been given life, talents, and abilities. We are expected to use them. This is what it means to live fully. Surely we Catholics will be excited, not afraid, when the Lord announces, "Ready or not, here I come!"

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

- ★ Are you faithful to your responsibilities?
- ★ If not, what is holding you back?

