



## *Essential Evangelization*

### **Are You Ready?**

In the last few weeks we have heard Gospel stories and parables about being ready for Jesus' eventual return. For us, this could be the end of days here on earth as we know it, or our own inevitable death. In either case, we neither know the hour or day. How are we to be prepared for heaven on that day?

On the most basic level, it is being forgiven by God for our imperfect lives. That does not happen automatically, or assumed automatic, because we have been baptized. God's gift of forgiveness must be received on an individual basis. It is a universal offer, but there is no effect on the debt of our sin unless we put out faith and trust in Christ. He paid the price for our weaknesses and shortcomings. One may think, I am basically a good person, go to church on Sunday, don't have any big sins, and even do things for others and the church, but is that all God asks of us? God's offer of forgiveness, comes through His Son, and this offer must be received. Otherwise it is like a gift that is never picked up or unwrapped or a paycheck never cashed. We are invited to the feast, and it is an invitation that cannot be taken lightly.

Jesus on many occasions drove home the point, "trust in God; trust also in me." He also said, "No one comes to the Father except by me... I am the Way, the Truth and the Life." He invited the woman at the well to receive His "living water," and He told Nicodemus, "For God so loved the world, that he gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish and have eternal life." And to the Pharisees, He said, "I am the gate, whoever enters through me will be saved."

Are you ready?

*"But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to overtake you like a thief."*

1 Thess 5:4

*This is one of a series of articles on  
Evangelization from the  
Evangelization Committee*