



STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE

"To live without faith, without a heritage to defend, without battling constantly for truth, is not to live but to 'get along'; we must never just 'get along'!"
Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE REALLY EXCELLENT AT?

WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE POSSIBLE OBSTACLES TO THAT?

WATCH THIS VIDEO FROM FR MIKE SCHMITZ "HOW TO BE EXCELLENT (NOT A PERFECTIONIST)" AND REFLECT ON THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW



Why is perfection sometimes called "the enemy of the good"?

If excellence is not the same as perfection, how could excellence be defined?

Fr Mike suggests two factors or metrics to see if we are striving for excellence or just settling for mediocrity:

1 PROMPTNESS

Give 4 examples of promptness Fr Mike suggests:



Finish the quote: "Punctuality is the _____"

How would you explain this in your own words?

2 (BEING) PREPARED

How did Fr Mike explain the importance of being prepared for having an excellent liturgy? How is it different to being just very skilled in each role?

How can we honour God by being prompt and prepared?
What are we using / maximising?



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MATTHEW 22:1-14

Have you thought about this before? How would it change things for you if you applied this to your actions? Pick one area of life and reflect on this: it could be prayer / Mass attendance / serving others / school work.

SITUATION: _____

HOW I COULD BE PROMPT & PREPARED _____

THE DIFFERENCE IT COULD MAKE _____



Now Read Matthew 22:1-14



“Anything worth doing is worth doing well”: Sound familiar? Sound easy? We can all look for the easy option at times - staying in our comfort zones, wanting things handed to us - who wouldn't want that? There's a lot going on in this parable: the first part is easier to understand. God invites many into His Kingdom, the wedding feast of His Son (Jesus) but many refused the invitation - just like many refused to listen to the prophets in the Old Testament (the servants in the parable). So God goes beyond the Jews, the Chosen People, and others are invited into the feast, the Kingdom of Heaven. For the Elders and Pharisees at the time of Jesus this would have been shocking, but it's a concept we're more familiar with these days. Maybe too familiar... that's why the next part can still jar with us. One guest comes, not properly dressed and is thrown out. Would God really kick someone out of his kingdom for not being properly dressed? That sounds ridiculous, and it's not actually what's going on here. It's a reminder to us that all are invited, but we need to actively decide for Christ. We need to strive to reach our Christian potential with promptness and preparedness and not settle for a life of mediocrity. We were made for more!

MISSION!

TAKE SOME TIME THIS WEEK TO LOOK AT ANY AREA WHERE YOU'RE STRUGGLING WITH BEING PROMPT AND PREPARED. HOW IS THIS IMPACTING YOUR LIFE? HOW COULD IT BE BETTER? ARE YOU PROMPT AND PREPARED WHEN IT COMES TO PRACTICING YOUR FAITH, OR ARE YOU LIKE THE WEDDING GUEST WHO JUST TURNED UP WITH NO COMMITMENT OR GENUINE EFFORT ON YOUR BEHALF ESPECIALLY IN MATTERS OF FAITH?



PRAYER TIME!

Lord Jesus, I want to be the best version of myself. I want to use the gifts and talents you have given me, I want to reach my true potential. I know this is only possible with and through you. Please don't let me settle for mediocrity, but help me to strive for excellence in everything I do. Amen



CREATE A PLAYLIST TO LISTEN TO AS YOU REFLECT ON STRIVING IN FAITH



- Matthew West: The Motions
- Matt Redman: The Heart Of Worship
- Brian Doerksen: Today I Choose
- Phil Wickham: Battle Belongs

“Go do what you know is right” (Fr Patrick Cahill)

How do you think this video relates to this parable?