

SHALOM : August 2010      SUNDAY 8<sup>th</sup>      19<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year

We should always be grateful to St Peter for the questions he asked the Lord. Sometimes his questions might seem trivial or irrelevant, or even a bit cheeky, but they always provoked an interesting or revealing response from Jesus. The example in today's gospel is no exception. But this time, instead of answering Peter directly, Jesus continues what He's been saying about servants needing to be alert, expectant, ready for their master's return. And He indicates that He's expecting Peter to be that "good steward" whom He can put in charge of the whole household of God. Very definitely, the "parable is meant for us", as well as everyone. The message of being ready is meant for everyone who's His servant, and especially those who've been given much.

People are sometimes tempted to think that Jesus' parables and teachings are meant not so much for ordinary people as for the 'holy' ones, sisters or brothers or priests etc. That's also the implication of Peter's question to Jesus. But in reality we're all called to be the good and trustworthy servants that the master will find at their work, whenever He may unexpectedly return.

So once again, living a Christian life comes back to gratefulness --- recognising and sincerely thanking God for the gifts we've each of us received. Not making comparisons with other people, or wishing for things we haven't got, but even in the most ordinary things of life learning to appreciate and value God's love-gifts to us, rejoicing in what we have, and being thankful. Not an easy task, maybe, in our greedy, acquisitive, consuming-conscious age.

Lord make me mindful of what I have received.

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