

# Scripture and Feast Day Notes

## Sixth Sunday of Advent

### From Today's Readings

**Luke 19:12-28** Nearing Jerusalem to face His last days, Jesus tells a cautionary tale about a man who goes to a distant country to be crowned king and entrusts his servants with money to “put to work.” Upon his return, he commends those who have increased the sum through wise investment and curses the one who simply hoarded it, afraid of the master. He takes this and awards it to the servant who did the most with his money, vowing that “to the one who has, more will be given and for the one who has nothing, even this will be taken away.” *Discuss/reflect: The Parable of the Ten Minas drives home some powerful points: all that we have is God's, He gives us complete freedom in its use, He asks that until He returns, we use it wisely and well. But we're accountable! – no excuses for being lax or timid. What are your gifts and assets? How are you using them? As He would want?*

**Hebrews 7:11-25** The epistle writer describes the breakthrough priesthood of Jesus, which unlike that of Aaron and his line, is eternal and bears a new and different covenant. This priesthood is compared with that of Melchizedek (Genesis 14:18-20; Psalm 110:4), the king and high priest from Salem who offered bread and wine and his blessing to Abram. With the character of his priesthood, the symbolic elements of Holy Communion, his kingship over Salem (“peace”), Abram's reverence, and his blessing, Melchizedek is seen as a Christ-like figure. *Discuss/reflect: What would you want to ask of Jesus as priest?*

**Isaiah 41: 4-14** God commands the distant nations to be ready to meet his judgment, reminding them that *He* is the source and overseer of history, the first and the last. To lowly and humble Israel (41:14) whom He has chosen and upheld, He pledges protection. *Discuss/reflect: Read and re-read verse 13. Imagine God's hand in yours as He whispers in your ear “Do not be afraid; I will help you.” Draw on this image throughout the day, especially at difficult moments.*

### Monday, December 27: Holy Apostles Peter and Paul



These saints were the most influential of the first followers and apostles. Called by Jesus to leave his fishing boat and become a “fisher of men,” Peter was always named first whenever the Gospels listed the Twelve. He was one of Jesus' closest disciples (along with James and John); they alone were with Him at the Transfiguration and accompanied Him as He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. It was Peter who asked to walk on water to prove the strength of his faith and it was he who first boldly acknowledged Jesus as the Christ (Luke 9:20). Peter denied Jesus three times the night of His arrest and yet the Book of Acts describes his evangelizing work and leadership in the Early Church as powerful and prolific. Once the disciples opened their ministry to *all* people and not just Jewish converts, St. Paul takes center stage in the Book of Acts. A witness to Stephen's stoning, Paul experiences conversion on the road to Damascus where Christ appears to him (Acts 9) and is transformed from Christian persecutor to world-renowned apostle. St. Paul proceeded to take Christ's message of salvation throughout the Roman Empire, penning the most important epistles in the New Testament.

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