

**Friday, March 3, 2017**

**Matthew 9: 14-15** *The disciples of John approached Jesus and said, "Why do we and the Pharisees fast much, but your disciples do not fast?" Jesus answered them, "Can the wedding guests mourn as long as the bridegroom is with them? The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast."*

The Jewish people observed many days of fasting in Our Lord's time, especially among the Pharisees. In this Gospel passage Jesus was not trying to teach them a new observance of their custom for fasting but was rather wonderfully demonstrating the virtue of prudence. Prudence provides the ability to recognize truth in a given situation and respond with right judgment. Prudence guides our motives, actions and emotions to a higher good. While John's disciples were questioning the actions of the disciples of the Lord, Jesus points out with clarity that joy is an expected outcome when one is in relationship with the Lord. Fasting and penance will come at the appropriate time, but while the disciples are in the presence of Jesus, they have the right to rejoice.

During this Lenten season we should ask for the gift of prudence so as to be given the knowledge to know what must be done and when to do it in order to achieve God's will.

**Reflection questions:**

Prudence is not timidity, lack of initiative, cowardice. On the contrary, prudence can lead one to speak and act boldly for a higher good. Do I actively practice prudence in my life?

Do I pray for the gift of prudence?

**Reflection by:**

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