



33rd SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME ***YEAR B – November 18, 2018***

Today's Gospel portrays Jesus preparing the people of his time for some bad news. He tells them that a great catastrophe is going to take place in their lifetime. Moreover, it will be preceded by certain signs. History records that Jesus was talking about the destruction of the Temple and all of Jerusalem.

That catastrophe actually took place within 40 years of the death of Jesus. It brought an end to the Old Testament world as the Jews of Jesus' time knew it then.

Jesus warning of catastrophe has always been interpreted by Christians as a warning, about the end of the entire world - or what is called the second coming of Jesus. This is how the Church uses it in today's gospel to refer not to the end of the Old Testament world but to the end of the entire world as we know it now.

When will all this happen. If you believe Jesus, then no one - absolutely no one here on earth knows the day or the hour. Only our Father in heaven knows.

Some people think there are signs taking place in our world right now that suggest that the end of our world is near at hand. They prophecy as if they had some kind of inside information that no one else has. But if you believe Jesus, then you don't have to believe any of those predictions precisely because no one knows.

In today's gospel, Jesus sets before us two sobering themes -- the suddenness with which our life will end and the need to be prepared. These are themes that should not be taken lightly. They have the potential to change our lives.

The church wants to remind us as Jesus reminded his disciples at the end of his own earthly life, that life here on earth is just a brief preparation for an eternal life in heaven.

By all means, get involved in life here on earth, but not to the extent that you lose sight of our eternal life that is found on the other side of the bridge of death.

Here's what we know from Jesus himself. We know that the end will come when we least expect it. We know it will come suddenly, giving us little or no time to prepare. So what does it all mean.

It means we need to be prepared today and tomorrow and every day. And then we can enjoy all the good things God has provided for us here on earth. There is no need to be afraid. The whole message is - be prepared.

For a few moments in silence reflect on how well you are prepared, should it all happen today.

