



November 17 2019 // Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time // Lectionary: 159 // Gospel LK 21:5-19

While some people were speaking about how the temple was adorned with costly stones and votive offerings, Jesus said, "All that you see here-- the days will come when there will not be left a stone upon another stone that will not be thrown down." Then they asked him, "Teacher, when will this happen? And what sign will there be when all these things are about to happen?" He answered, "See that you not be deceived, for many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he,' and 'The time has come.' Do not follow them! When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for such things must happen first, but it will not immediately be the end." Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be powerful earthquakes, famines, and plagues from place to place; and awesome sights and mighty signs will come from the sky. "Before all this

happens, however, they will seize and persecute you, they will hand you over to the synagogues and to prisons, and they will have you led before kings and governors because of my name. It will lead to your giving testimony. Remember, you are not to prepare your defense beforehand, for I myself shall give you a wisdom in speaking that all your adversaries will be powerless to resist or refute. You will even be handed over by parents, brothers, relatives, and friends, and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name, but not a hair on your head will be destroyed. By your perseverance you will secure your lives."



Spiritual Reflection: "The pressure in our culture to secure our own future and to control our lives as much as possible does not find support in the Bible. Jesus knows our need for security. He is concerned that because security is such a deep human need, we do not place our trust in things or people that cannot offer us real security. "Do not store up treasures for yourselves on earth, where moth and woodworm destroy them and thieves can break in and steal. But store up treasures for yourselves in heaven, where neither moth nor woodworm destroys them and thieves cannot break in and steal. For wherever your treasure is, there will your heart be too" (Matt. 6:19-21)." - *The Spirituality of Fundraising* By Henri Nouwen. The people of Jesus' time began to practice religion like their pagan neighbors with the thought that the more money they used to adorn temples the happier God would be and the more He would do for them. Jesus wants them to trust God as a father not as a mercenary.

Spiritual Questions:

1. What are your thoughts on Karma?
2. Do you trust that God will bring you safely home if you trust Him?
3. If a firefighter tells you to "stop, drop, and roll," because you are on fire is it the firefighter's fault if you get burned more than you would have if you had listened?
4. How do you handle minor inconveniences?
5. How do you handle major tragedies?