

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, cycle B

Daniel 12:1-13

Hebrews 10:11-14, 18 Mark 13:24-32

HOMILY

We are in that time of the year where there is a strong sense of ending: the falling of leaves, the fading of light, memorials for the dead and the drawing on of the end of the calendar year as well as the end of the church's year. The readings we just heard speak to us about the end of time. Unlike the sunset which we enjoy so much, the end of times isn't supposed to be pretty at all.

The context of today's Gospel passage is from the time Jesus and his disciples were sitting outside overlooking the city of Jerusalem and the magnificent temple – enjoying the view, and his disciples ask him about three ends: that of the Temple, Jerusalem and of the world.

They ask because just like most of us the disciples find endings difficult to deal with.

In answer, Jesus first he speaks about the end of the Temple and the destruction of Jerusalem.

He then goes on to proclaim three truths about this final ending. First that there will be a period of trials. All nature will be out of control – after that people will see a figure called '*the Son of Man*' coming in glory and power. Secondly, this Son of man will send out messengers and gather the chosen from the four corners of the earth. Thirdly, Jesus says no one knows the exact day.

This third point is quite interesting. By this Jesus gives a hint that asking about the end of the world is immaterial to what we out to be doing right now.

At the heart of these readings though is the promise that God will bring all chaos under control and that God will always take care of the faithful. A new order will dawn out of the end. Thus, the old order will pass away. It means that out of the end will spring a new beginning. This is our faith!

Meanwhile, the Gospel is calling us to work for a world in which the poor and the broken hearted are cared for. We are talking about the likes of those broken-hearted fleeing from Afghanistan who have reached a point of selling their little daughter, not because she is a commodity but in a wishful double hope that those who pay money for her will provide for her livelihood, and that the rest of the family can be kept alive for a few more days from the money they get out this hard and cruel situation.

Therefore, instead of speculating about the end of times, the Gospel is challenging us to face the hard facts of our world but also challenging us to contribute to a just order in the world we live in.