

Gospel Reflection

At first glance, Paul's admonition to the Thessalonians seems harsh; "If you aren't willing to work, then neither should you eat." In fact, his words are intended to have a tone of severity. But, if we listen to the message underneath, we hear two very distinct points:

First, Paul wants us to make a commitment. He's asking us, "Are you in? Are you committed to Christ?" If the answer is yes, that entails, at least in part, recognizing that we all have a responsibility to contribute our fair share, each according to the gifts we have been given.

Second, that we are to do so quietly, joyfully, for the betterment of each other, and for the greater glory of God.

In today's Gospel, Jesus takes this message a step further. While certainly he alludes to the trials of the "end times," He too is asking us, "Are you in? Will you stand with me?" Jesus seems to remind us that even in the midst of – or perhaps especially in the midst of turmoil, fear and uncertainty – our greatest calling is to remain faithful, in our commitment to following Christ in his unconditional love and generosity and by living this out in how we give of ourselves to others, no matter what the circumstances may be.

OLA's Stewardship Committee

KEEPING FAITH FIRST FAMILY FUN

Luke 21:5-19

N P Y Q H T Y D B D S P U
K O S T E O E G G E T N C
E O I M H V A S V I O O T
O B P T I G X N O F N I L
D L P E C U I A T I E T O
E K C R K E V M I R B A D
T E M A N I R U V R Q N W
D S I G N S N R E E Y A K
A W E S O M E G U T R K K
W X M U B H L T D S V D S
S T H G I S P M L O N E B
P V F S M O B J Z B M I W
B Z I K Q T M W Y D V U Q

Find these words from the Gospel passage.

AWESOME	DECEIVED	INSURRECTION
KINGDOM	MIGHTY	NAME
NATION	SIGHTS	SIGNS
SKY	STONE	TEMPLE
TERRIFIED	VOTIVE	WARS

Disciple's Reflection & Questions of the Week

*Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
11/18/07*

*Luke 21:5-19
Faith-Sharing
Questions of the Week*



Our Lady of the Assumption

435 Berkeley Ave.
Claremont, CA
www.olaclaremont.org

Call to Prayer

We begin by calling upon God:

**In the Name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the
Holy Spirit, Amen.**

*We then pause for a moment to listen with
our hearts to this week's Gospel passage...*

The Word of God: *Luke 21:5-19*

The Gospel according to Luke:

While some people were speaking about how the temple is adorned with costly stones and votive offerings, Jesus said, "All that you see here— the days will come in which 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 hared by all because of my name, but not a hair on your head will be destroyed.

By your perseverance you will secure your lives."



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Gospel Glossary

Insurrection: a rebellion against the rulers or government of a country, often involving armed conflict.

Deceive: to purposefully mislead yourself or others.

Awesome: impressive and frightening.

Faith Sharing

Questions of the Week

- If Jesus were to ask me, "Are you in?" what would I say? How freely do I give of myself to others?
- What gifts do I have to offer? Do I contribute my fair share? Even when times are tough?

Closing Prayer

Father in Heaven,

*From the beginning of time you
promised your people salvation
through the future coming of your
Son. Help us to drink of his truth
and expand our hearts with the joy of
his promises. We ask this through
Christ our Lord.*

Amen.

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time