

## Gospel Reflection

For a lot of folks these are tough times. Some families are unable to afford health care or housing. Some people have lost high-paying jobs and are out of work for the first time in their lives. Others are caught in a whirlwind of ever-increasing activity, addiction, or abuse that dominates their lives. People of color still face oppression. Many seniors suffer from loneliness and poverty. Around the globe people are suffering from great pain, disease, malnutrition, and war.

Even so, the scriptures for this Sunday give cause for hope for all who are going through tough times. In the midst of his suffering, Jeremiah finds hope in his knowledge that the Lord “rescued the life of the poor from the power of the wicked!” (Jeremiah 20:13). Likewise the psalmist can endure persecutions because he knows “the LORD hears the poor” (Psalm 69:34).

In the course of this short selection from Matthew’s Gospel Jesus tells the Twelve three times not to be afraid. Both the disciples and Jesus will soon encounter suffering and death. Jesus reminds them, and us, of our Father’s eternally powerful love that will not abandon us in the tough times. That is the grace that “overflow [ed] for the many,” in “the gracious gift of the one man Jesus Christ” (Romans 5:15).

This message of hope is not meant to be kept to ourselves. Like the apostle Paul, we are to communicate that good news to all who may be experiencing tough times – through our actions as well as our words. Jesus proved the truth of his words by his saving death on the cross. What about us? When we calm others’ fears, telling them not to be afraid, that everything will work out in the end, are those just empty words? Or do we follow up with actions that prove our words to be true? How might you help someone through tough times this week?

## KEEPING FAITH FIRST FAMILY FUN

*Matthew 10:26-33*

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

**Find these words from the Gospel passage.**

ACKNOWLEDGES	BODY	COIN
DARKNESS	DENIES	FATHER
FEAR	GEHENNA	HOUSETOPS
LIGHT	SECRET	SOLD
SOUL	SPARROWS	WHISPER

## Disciple’s Reflection & Questions of the Week

*Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
6/22/2008*

*Matthew 10:26-33  
Faith-Sharing  
Questions of the Week*



***Our Lady of the Assumption***

435 Berkeley Ave.

Claremont, CA

[www.olaclaremont.org](http://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:** *Matthew 10:26-33*

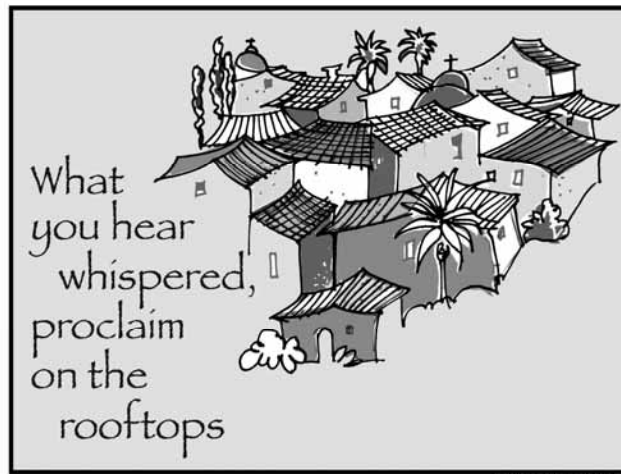
### ***The Gospel according to Matthew***

Jesus said to the Twelve: "Fear no one. Nothing is concealed that will not be revealed, nor secret that will not be known. What I say to you in darkness, speak in the light; what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in **Gehenna**.

Are not two **sparrows** sold for a **small coin**? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's knowledge. Even all the hairs on your head are counted. So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

Everyone who acknowledges me before others, I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father. But whoever denies me before, I will deny before my heavenly Father."

***The Gospel of the Lord***



### **Gospel Glossary**

**Gehenna:** from "Ge Hinnon," ("the Valley of Hinnon"), a valley outside of Jerusalem where refuse was taken to be burned. In the New Testament, this name refers to the underworld.

**small coin:** probably refers to the smallest unit of Roman currency, the copper coin or "assarion."

**sparrows:** kept as pets by the Romans, the commonness and small size of these birds make them good symbols of God's attentiveness to even what human beings think is unimportant.



**"Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin?"**

## Faith Sharing

### **Questions of the Week**

- What sort of opposition do I face when I follow Jesus faithfully?
- What fears do I have when my faith is opposed?
- How has God reassured me and cared for me during times of adversity?

## Closing Prayer

God of the Universe,

We worship you as Lord. God, ever close to us, we rejoice to call you Father. From this world's uncertainty, we look to your covenant. Keep us one in your peace, secure in your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

**Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time**