

St. Barnabas Catholic Church, 11/18/18, Yr. B, 33RD Sun Ord Time (Mark 13: 24-32)
IN CHAPTER 10 OF (*HEBREWS*),, SCRIPTURE TELLS US

THAT JESUS SACRIFICED HIMSELF,, FOR OUR SINS,,

ONCE AND FOR ALL,,

AND THAT HE NOW SITS AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE FATHER,, WAITING UNTILL THE RIGHT DAY,, WHEN ***ALL HIS ENEMIES,, WILL BE MADE HIS FOOTSTOOL.*** THIS MEANS THAT THEY WILL BE MADE HIS CAPTIVE AND THAT OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,,

WILL REIGN SUPREME!

IN THE MEANTIME,, AS WE LEARN,, IN THE GOSPEL OF MARK,, WE MUST REALIZE THAT WE,, BROTHERS AND SISTERS,, ARE IN THE WAKE OF THE UNFOLDING HISTORY OF ***THE PROPHETIC UTTERENCES***,, WHICH WERE MADE BY THE PROPHETS OF OLD,, AND ALSO ***BY JESUS HIMSELF***,, WHEN THEY TOLD US,, OF THE THINGS THAT WILL TAKE PLACE,, PRIOR,, TO THE ***SECOND COMING,, OF JESUS.***

IT'S ALSO IMPORTANT,, FOR US TO REALIZE,, AS DANIEL TOLD US WHILE BEING LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT;

THERE'S A TIME COMING,, OF UNSURPASSED STRESS,, THAT THE WORLD HAS NEVER SEEN,, SINCE IT'S CREATION.

THIS IS THE SAME MESSAGE,, THAT SOME PROPHETS AND JESUS HIMSELF,, ALSO STRESS.

SO,, WE MUST MAKE SURE,, THAT WE'RE PREPARED FOR THE DAYS OF GREAT TRIBULATION.

HOW DO WE PREPARE FOR SOMETHING LIKE THIS?

(* SHOULD WE STORE UP EXTRA FOOD?

(* OR BUILD AN UNDERGROUND SHELTER,, AS MANY DID DURING THE COLD WAR?

WELL,, NO! PREPARATION FOR THE THINGS THAT ARE GOING TO HAPPEN,, ARE SPIRITUAL THINGS AND EACH OF US,, AS INDIVIDUALS,, MUST SPIRITUALLY REACH OUT,, AND TAKE THE GIFT OF FAITH,, THAT GOD OFFERS.

THEN,,, WITH HEARTS FULL OF REPENTENCE,,, WE NEED TO *ADMIT OUR SINFULNESS,,, CONFESS OUR NEED FOR FORGIVENESS,,, TO JESUS,,, OUR LORD AND SAVIOR AND REPENT OF OUR SINS,,,* THEN,,, ACCEPT AND RECEIVE THE GIFT OF GRACE,,, MERCY,,, AND FORGIVENESS OF JESUS INTO OUR HEARTS BY FAITH.

(EPHESIANS 5) SAYS;

FOR BY GRACE,,, WE ARE SAVED THROUGH FAITH! AS WE DO THESE THINGS,,, WE SHOW THE ACT OF FAITH THAT DANIEL WROTE ABOUT,,, AND WHICH IS THE CONSTANT THEME,,, OF THE NEW TESTAMENT,,, WHEN DANIEL SAID;

YOUR NAME,,, IS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK,,, THE BOOK OF LIFE,,, THE LAMBS BOOK OF LIFE,,, IN HEAVEN.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS,,, WHY IS YOUR NAME,,, IN THE BOOK. *IT'S BECAUSE YOUR SPIRIT,,, AND SOUL,,, HAVE BEEN JUSTIFIED,,, REDEEMED,,,* ***BY THE FINISHED WORK OF JESUS ON THAT CROSS.***

BUT THEN,,, WE MUST “WORK-OUT” OUR SALVATION,,, AS SCRIPTURE SAYS,,, BY ALLOWING THE SANCTIFYING WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT,,, TO CONFORM US,,, TO THE IMAGE AND LIKENESS OF CHRIST,,, UNTIL HE COMES AGAIN AND ,,,

WE HAVE A LOT OF WORK TO DO!

WE NEED TO SURRENDER OUR LIVES,,, AND OUR WILLS,,, TO THE WILL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND ALLOW HIM TO GUIDE US,,, EVERY DAY!

IN OUR READING TODAY,,, IN MARK CHAPTER 13,,, WE'RE TOLD,,, THAT THE DISCIPLES ASKED JESUS,,, *WHAT SIGNS THEY SHOULD BE LOOKING FOR.* JESUS REPLIED:

WATCH,,, DON'T BE DECEIVED,,, MANY WILL COME IN MYNAME,,, CLAIMING TO BE ME. THERE WILL BE RUMORS OF WARS,,, NATIONS WILL RISE UP AGAINST NATIONS. THERE WILL BE EARTHQUAKES AND FAMINES.

THESE ARE THE BEGINNING OF BIRTH PAINS. YOU WILL BE PERSECUTED,, BUT THE GOSPEL MUST BE PREACHED FIRST TO ALL NATIONS. BROTHER WILL BETRAY BROTHER,, AND CHILDREN WILL REBEL AGAINST PARENTS,, EVEN HAVE THEM PUT TO DEATH. BUT THOSE WHO STAND FIRM,, WILL BE SAVED! ABOMINATION,, AND DESOLATION,, WILL STAND,, WHERE IT DOES NOT BELONG. THIS DISTRESS,, IS UNEQUALED,, FROM THE BEGINNING AND NEVER TO BE EQUALED AGAIN!

IF THE LORD HAD NOT CUT SHORT THOSE DAYS,, NO ONE,, WOULD SURVIVE. BUT,, FOR THE SAKE OF THE ELECT,, HE SHORTENED THEM! AFTER THOSE DAYS,, THE SON OF MAN WILL COME,, IN THE CLOUDS,, WITH GREAT POWER AND GLORY,, AND HE WILL SEND HIS ANGELS,, TO GATHER HIS ELECT,, FROM THE ENDS OF THE EARTH,, TO THE ENDS OF THE HEAVENS.

WE SEE,, THROUGHOUT SCRIPTURE,, MANY PREDICTIONS,, EQUAL TO,, OR,, EVEN MUCH MORE DESCRIPTIVE,, THAN THE WORDS OF JESUS,, REGARDING THE END TIME EVENTS OF HISTORY,, JUST PRIOR TO JESUS' SECOND COMING.

LIKE IS SAID IN EZRA,, BARUCH,, AMOS,, JOEL,, EZEKIEL,, DANIEL,, ISAIAH,, MICAH,, JEREMIAH AND ZECHARIAH AS EXAMPLES.

SO,, WITH THIS IN MIND,, HOW ARE WE TO APPLY JESUS' WORDS,, THE PARABLE HE GAVE US,, AND THE FACT THAT JESUS SAID;

THIS GENERATION WOULD NOT PASS AWAY,, UNTIL ALL THIS HAD TAKEN PLACE,, AND HEAVEN AND EARTH,, WILL PASS AWAY,, BUT HIS WORD,, WILL NEVER PASS AWAY. AND NOONE,, NOT EVEN THE ANGELS,, KNOW THE DAY,, OR THE HOUR,, WHEN HE WILL COME AGAIN,, ONLY THE FATHER KNOWS!

HOW ARE WE TO ABSORB ALL OF THAT? AND HOW CAN WE UNDERSTAND IT?

WELL,,, WE NEED TO LOOK INTO HISTORY,,, AND SEE THE WORDS OF PROPHECY,,, THAT JESUS SPOKE ABOUT. THE THINGS THAT WERE ABOUT TO HAPPEN AND,,, THAT WERE FULFILLED WITHIN A FEW SHORT YEARS OF JESUS' DEATH AND RESURRECTION.

THIS WAS JUST A FORETASTE,,, OR PARTIAL FULFILLMENT,,, OF WHAT IS YET TO COME,,, IN THE FUTURE! WHAT WE'RE WAITING FOR BROTHERS AND SISTERS,,, IS:

THE RETURN OF JESUS CHRIST!

THROUGHOUT ALL OF HISTORY,,, THAT HAS BEEN THE NORM. IN PROPHECY,,, *THERE'S BEEN A PARTIAL FULFILLMENT* AS WE SEE IN JESUS' WORDS. THEN,,, *THERE WILL BE A TOTAL FULFILLMENT*,,, AT THE APPOINTED TIME.

IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION,,, WE'RE TOLD THAT SOME OF PROPHECY HAS ALREADY BEEN FULFILLED BUT,,,

THE BEST IS YET TO COME.

THAT BEING SAID,,, LET'S TAKE A LOOK,,, AT WHAT JESUS PROPHECIZED.

JESUS SAID: *THERE WOULD BE WARS AND RUMORS OF WARS*,,,

AND IN FACT,,, THE DREADED PARTHIANS,,, HAD STARTED TO ATTACK THE ROMAN FRONTIERS.

JESUS ALSO SAID: *THERE WOULD BE EARTHQUAKES*,,, AND 40 YEARS LATER,,, THE ROMAN WORLD WAS DEVISTATED BY A HUGE EARTHQUAKE,,, THAT DESTROYED LADOSA AND THE ERUPTION OF MT. VESUVIAS COMPLETELY BURIED POMPEI IN LAVA.

THEN JESUS SAID: *THERE WOULD BE FAMINES*,,, AND THE ROMAN WORLD SUFFERED FAMINE,,, DURING THE REIGN OF CLAUDIUS CAESAR.

IN 70 A.D.,,, ROME COMPLETELY DESTROYED THE JERUSALEM TEMPLE AND THE JEWISH POPULATION WAS SCATTERED OVER THE KNOWN WORLD.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS,,, ALL OF THESE EVENTS HAPPENED BY 73A.D.,, JUST 45 YEARS AFTER JESUS' DEATH,,, BUT WITHIN THE GENERATION,,, THAT JESUS SPOKE ABOUT,,, JUST AS HE SAID THEY WOULD.

IN SCRIPTURE,,, THE WORD “FIG” REFERS TO ISRAEL,,, AND FIGS ARE MENTIONED IN SCRIPTURE 64 TIMES. SO,,, IT'S NO WONDER,,, THAT JESUS WOULD USE THE FIG TREE,,, IN HIS PARABLES.

**IN THE PARABLE OF THE FIG TREE,,, JESUS SAID;
*WHEN THE BRANCH BECOMES TENDER,,, AND SPROUTS LEAVES,,, YOU KNOW THAT SUMMER IS NEAR.
IN THE SAME WAY,,, WHEN YOU SEE THESE THINGS HAPPENING,,, KNOW THAT HE IS NEAR AT THE GATES.***

IT'S A FACT THAT THE FIG TREE,,, IS THE LAST TREE TO SPROUT LEAVES,,, IN SPRING,,, SOMETIME AROUND MARCH OR APRIL.

SO,,, IT'S SHOOTS ARE THE BEST INDICATOR THAT SUMMER'S NEAR. THAT'S WHY JESUS USES THIS NATURAL IMAGE OF THE FIG TREE,,, TO LINK-UP,,, WITH WHAT HE HAD SAID BEFORE.

HE SAID,,, AFTER THE TRIBULATION,,, THE THINGS WE DISCUSSED,,, THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN FULFILLED,,, *WHEN YOU BEGIN TO SEE THE SIGNS OF THE THINGS TO COME,,, LIKE THE SUN BEING DARKENED,,, THE MOON NOT GIVING OUT ITS LIGHT,,, AND WHEN YOU SEE THE BRANCHES OF THE FIG TREE SPROUTING,,, KNOW THAT THE TIME IS NEAR.*

SO,,, EXACTLY WHAT TIME IS JESUS SPEAKING OF? HE'S SPEAKING OF; “*THE TIME OF JESUS' COMING*”.

BROTHERS AND SISTERS,,, MORE THAN 2000 YEARS HAS PASSED,,, SINCE THESE WORDS HAVE BEEN SPOKEN.

(*) THE BIRTH PAINS ARE ALREADY HERE!

(*) WARS AND RUMORS OF WAR ARE ALREADY HERE.

(*) THE EARTHQUAKES ARE ALREADY HERE.

SO,,, IT JUST MIGHT BE,,, THAT THE COMING OF CHRIST,,, COULD HAPPEN AT ANY TIME.

IT COULD HAPPEN NOW,,, OR PERHAPS YEARS FROM NOW,,, WE DON'T EXACTLY KNOW! BUT,,, IT COULD HAPPEN AT ANY TIME!

TODAYS MESSAGE,,, ISN'T MEANT TO SCARE ANYONE. THE WHOLE POINT IS:

ALWAYS BE ON YOUR GUARD,,, BE PREPARED,,, WATCHING,,, WAITING AND LIVING YOUR LIVES,,, AS IF JESUS IS COMING TODAY!

MAY GOD GRANT YOU ALL,,, THE GRACE AND WISDOM TO HEED HIS WORDS,,, TO WATCH AND TO PRAY,,, AND TO REMAIN SPIRITUALLY STRONG,,, IN JOYFUL FAITH,,, WHILE YOU WAIT!

THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

+++ AMEN+++

(1,378) WDS,,, 6 PGS