

## Scripture Reflection by Fr Dave

( *Daniel 12: 1 – 3; Hebrews 10: 11 – 14, 18; Mark 13: 24 – 32* )

A story is told of a young boy of about ten years of age who was always getting into trouble for being late for the family meal at 6 o'clock. There was always something better to do – going out with friends, riding his bike, playing football. Gradually his Dad became more and more frustrated that the family meal was disrupted and that food prepared by his wife was sometimes ruined. Eventually, the dad warned the son that the next time he was late, he would receive an empty plate at the dinner table. True to form, the boy was late the next day. Without saying a word, only two dishes were prepared – one for Mom, one for Dad. When the boy arrived home and sat down at the table, he received an empty plate while his parents had plates full of food. No one said a word and the parents began to eat. From the corner of his eye, the boy's father saw heavy wet tears begin to slide down his son's face as he started to sob. Looking across at his son, the father lifted up his own plate full of food and swapped it with his son's empty plate. The father went without as he watched his son eat. Never again was the boy late for the meal.

As the Church's Liturgical year draws to a close, both the Scriptures and our worship remind us of the end times, of Jesus' second coming, His return in glory, and of God's judgment. We are rapidly approaching December, the days grow shorter and the nights ever longer. What a perfect time to hear the words of the prophet Daniel who speaks of those who lead others to justice. Daniel says that these will shine like the stars forever. In the Gospel Jesus issues a warning about the end times. All of this might seem a very scary prospect, especially as no one but the Father knows either the day or the hour when any of it will happen. Yet, we cannot even begin to understand anything about our final destiny unless we approach it from the viewpoint of faith – faith in what God has done for us in Jesus Christ. God loved us so much that He sent his only Son; and, out of love for us, His Son accepted the cross and triumphed over sin and death by His resurrection. None of this was for God's benefit; it all happened for you and for me. It all happened because God wants us to know the path of life, to experience the fullness of joy, and to be happy in His presence forever.

It is both impossible and unnecessary for us to try and imagine what the end of time will be like or what judgment will involve. The most important thing for us to do is to focus on the fact that Christ has offered "*one single sacrifice for sins.*" (today's selection from the Book of Hebrews). Because of what took place on that first Easter, our sins are forgiven and our hope is restored. We know our imperfections all too well, but Jesus sanctifies. He makes us holy through what He has done, not because of anything we have done or could do. This

doesn't, of course, mean that we can just do whatever we want and there won't be any consequences. We must all take responsibility for how we live, and continually try and shape our lives according to the teaching of the Gospel. This is not an overnight process. It takes time. But we engage with it, conscious that our God is compassionate, merciful, and just. We have a God Who has made the sacrifice on our behalf in Christ. In that one single offering, we have gained pardon and the promise of eternal life.

Someone once described judgment as whispering the story of one's life into God's loving ear, telling previously untold secrets to the One Who knows us better than anybody else. If we understand judgment as being on trial before God, we need to think again. In God's presence, our faults and failings may well make us want to weep, but God's judgment is about being welcomed home; it is about healing, about finally realizing that we are secure and precious in God's sight and embrace.

Let us pray for the Conversion of the World  
& for Peace



*Scripture Reflection by Father Rody*  
*NOV 14 2021, 33<sup>RD</sup> SUN YR-B...MK 13, 24-32*

**26** And then they will see **'the Son of Man coming in the clouds' with great power and glory,**

**27** and then **he will send out the angels and gather [his] elect** from the four winds, from the end of the earth to the end of the sky.

First, allow me to say credit to the owner of this song 'My Way' by Frank Sinatra.

*And now the end is here  
And so I face that final curtain  
My friend I'll make it clear  
I'll state my case, of which I'm certain  
I've lived a life that's full  
I traveled each and every highway  
And more, much more than this  
I did it my way*

As we face a new season (advent) in the church calendar, our readings these coming days would be more on the 'end of the world' or better known as **second coming (in Greek term=Parousia).**

In the second coming as presented by our gospel reading, we have the following key elements; 1. Son of Man is coming with great power and glory, 2. He will send out the angels, and 3. To gather the elect from the four winds (four corners of the world...second coming is very inclusive and not exclusive).

Now, with these 3 key elements at hand man has to face himself (using the song My Way) and ask his very self, 'How did I live my life...**though done in my way, was it pleasing to my God?**'

Our **first reading** will answer now the question of mankind to his very self...

**VERSE 2** Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake;

**Some to everlasting life, others to reproach and everlasting disgrace.**

Now mankind, we remember this that God will always respect our decision and He will also tell us be responsible enough to whatever decisions you made in your life. In the end, the decision **'done in your own way'** will face the question **'Is it pleasing to God?'**