

THE UNCHANGING WORD IN A CHANGING WORLD: 33RD SUNDAY, YEAR B, 14 NOVEMBER 2021.

DANIEL 12:1-3; PSALM 16; HEBREWS 10:11-14, 18; MARK 13:24-32

Grace and peace to you my dear brothers and sisters in the Lord. Today is the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time. It is the last Sunday before the feast of Christ the King.

As we approach the end of a liturgical year and the calendar year, the Church directs our minds to focus on the fact that whatever has a beginning must have an end, be that human life, our earthly existence, this world, or our experiences- sweet or bitter. No season is permanent, only God is constant and unchanging. I believe someone needs to hear this message now. I speak to someone who is passing through a season of darkness, for someone in Babylon. It won't continue like this forever and for someone who feels so favoured and is enjoying life as sweet, remember everything is moving to an end.

Many of us don't like to think about the end of life. We don't believe the world will come to an end but that's the message of Jesus today.

Here is the summary of today's Gospel;

This world will one day come to an end. Don't be cross with me; this is what Jesus said and He can't lie.

Today I want to focus on just two messages.

A. Jesus will come again.

B. My words will never pass away.

Message 1: Jesus will come again.

What is our attitude to this news? When many people hear that Jesus will come again, they panic. Many people also enjoy making other people panic by sending disturbing videos and messages and spreading false news and prophecies about the end of time. Some people are just indifferent to the fact that Jesus will come again and some people are waiting with hope.

Jesus will surely come. As for the time, we do not know. It may be now or many years to come but we must think of this all the time.

This theme of the end of time is the major message in today's First Reading. Prophet Daniel saw a vision of the end of time. It was a time of sorrow for those who rejected God and a time of joyful reward for those who held firmly to Him, for those who remained faithful and inspired others by their good lives. They would shine as brightly as the vault of heaven.

This truth is not meant to cause us to panic. Instead, we are being warned to be prepared by being faithful, by being careful how we live and by doing what we should be doing, so that His coming will not be a disaster to us but a joyful event.

Message 2: Heaven and earth will pass away.

Here Jesus makes it clear that though everything may change or come to an end, His words will never change because He never changes. The Word of God reflects the unchanging character of God (Malachi 3:6, James 1:17; Psalm 102: 26-27)

This statement comes with a lot of implications but I will just highlight two.

A. His promises to us are true and unchanging:

What the Lord has promised us in His words is true, reliable and unchanging (Isaiah 46:10-11, Psalm 119:89) - His promise to love us unconditionally, to forgive us completely, to be with us, to never abandon or forget us, to be there when we call.

B. The teaching or content of the Word of God is never archaic or outdated. It never loses its relevance; it is

unchanging (Isaiah 40:8)

It is not hard to see how society has deviated so much from God's Word. Often people argue that we are in a modern world, we redefine what is right and wrong, we call for a review of sacred values and ideals, we rebel against the authority of the Scriptures and replace the teaching of God's Word with opinion polls and with votes. We want to redefine family, morality, marriage and some core ethical values taught by God's Word.

People have rejected what God teaches, and promoted what is evil and sinful as normal and acceptable.

Dear friends, the Word of God cannot be bent or twisted to conform to our modernism. We must temper our modernism and postmodern culture with God's Word. The Word of God is supreme. Its truth is unchanging and cannot be updated or reviewed. Those who live according to the truth of God's Word and not in disobedience to it, will be saved by it.