

## **Reflection for the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

As we are almost at the end of the liturgical year, the Word of God speaks about the theme of the “end”: the end of the world, the end of our history. We know that one day everything will come to an end. Faced with this reality, there have always appeared “false prophets” who sow fear, announce catastrophes, and preach a story of condemnation for humanity.

Today’s readings invite us to look upon human history and what awaits us when our journey on earth ends, with a spirit that is trusting and serene, assuring us that we walk toward God, toward true life. The history of humanity is not a history of perdition, but a history of salvation. God walks with us and wants us with Him at the eternal banquet. It is with this horizon before our eyes that we face daily life and overcome the difficulties the journey presents.

In the first reading, a “messenger of God”—that is what “Malachi” means—announces to a discouraged people that, contrary to what some skeptics were saying, God has not abandoned His People nor allowed evil to take control of human history. At the appointed time, God will act, cleanse the world, and defeat the forces of oppression and death that deprive people of life. From the ashes of the old world, God will make a new world arise, illuminated by the light of salvation.

It was this new world that Christ came to announce and to tell us that it is already happening in our midst. Christ is the sun of righteousness who came to bring the light of truth to all humanity, and whoever believes in Him will be saved and will live in the freedom of the children of God.

In the second reading, the apostle Paul tells us that we must live our life waiting for the Kingdom of God while committed to working, to doing good - and not living in idleness. The Christian of every time and place cannot live settled in mediocrity, apathy, or idleness, but must be a protagonist of history, someone committed to the building of the Kingdom of God. Faith in Christ cannot be an opiate that puts us to sleep, but a new energy that moves us to work ever more for the realization of the Kingdom of Jesus among us.

In turn, in the Gospel, Jesus begins by affirming that earthly things, however great they may be, always come to an end. Specifically in today's episode, Jesus says this about the Temple of Jerusalem - an imposing and grand building which was nearing completion. Despite its greatness and magnificence, it was destroyed in the year 70 by the Roman troops, as Jesus had foretold.

Meanwhile, the disciples question Jesus about when that will happen. And the Master replies that this is not the most important thing; what is important is that we remain vigilant and prepared, without letting ourselves be terrified by catastrophic teachings and by false prophets of the end of the world. There will be wars, earthquakes, all kinds of catastrophes, persecutions, but the "end" will come only when God wills, and not determined by human beings.

In the face of all this, let us remain confident and serene, because in the end Christ will be the victor. And the one who perseveres to the end on the path with Him will be saved.

In a time of "prophets" of every kind, of fears and anxieties, of persecutions of the followers of Christ, let us remain serene and confident. Christ walks with us, and He has already overcome the world.

AMEN.