

Thirty-Third Sunday of the Year

Believe in me

INTRODUCTION

Jesus expects each one of us to share his message and the gift of our faith with other people. He will send the Holy Spirit to give us strength and courage and will remember our goodness when he returns at the end of time.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the candles and read these words:

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life and will never walk in darkness." (John 8:12)

SORRY

Jesus taught us how we should lead our lives and treat other people. In this reading from Luke's Gospel, he reminds us that God will forgive us as easily as we forgive others.

Do not always believe that you are right and others are wrong, but treat people the way you would want to be treated. If you are full of forgiveness for others, then God will be full of forgiveness for you. (Luke 6:37-38)

(Sit quietly for a few moments of reflection.)

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 6.

GOSPEL (LUKE 21:5-9, 12-19)

Jesus was at the temple in Jerusalem when he overheard some of the crowd talking. "This temple was built to last forever!" they said. But Jesus told them, "One day everything, including this temple, will be destroyed."

"When will this happen?" they asked him. "Do not be afraid," said Jesus, "the time for this to happen is still a long way off. Before then many will suffer because they are my followers. I will give them courage and strength; they will be rewarded for their faith and goodness by my heavenly father."

DISCUSSION

What did Jesus mean when he said that one day everything, including the temple, would be destroyed? Jesus was talking about the end of the world, when he will return in power and glory. Buildings and possessions will not last forever, but love and goodness can never be destroyed.

Did Jesus tell the people when this would happen? Jesus did not tell them an exact day or time, but that the end of the world would not come until many people had suffered because they believed in him.

As Christians, we believe in Jesus and everything he taught us. We share one faith which is a gift from God. Jesus expects us to share that faith with others through our words and by the lives we lead.

Many of the early Christians suffered and died for their faith, because others would not believe in Jesus. Today it is not always easy to follow Christ's way of love and to build our lives around his teachings. But Jesus promised to give us the strength and courage that we need.

If we choose to follow Jesus and to live as he taught us, then we will be rewarded for our goodness by sharing everlasting happiness with God at the end of time.

ACTIVITY

Cut an oval shape from cardboard for each child, and punch two holes opposite each other at the ends of the oval. Write "Believe in" on the top half of one side above the holes. Turn the oval over so that the words are upside down and face down.

Write "Jesus" above the holes as before. Loop rubber bands or pieces of wool through the holes. After coloring in the letters and decorating the ovals, the children can wind the ovals to twist the rubber bands or wool. Have the children run out the twists and see the message they have written.

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Heavenly father, thank you
for the gift of faith
which each of us has been given.
Help us to share it
with whoever we meet.

