

# Young Adult Scripture Reflection

## November 15, 2009

Greetings Everyone!

As we approach the end of the liturgical year, our religious perspective focuses on the coming of the Lord. But which coming are we waiting for? His first coming, born as a baby in Bethlehem, according to the flesh, when he inaugurated the endtime? His final coming, which we expect at the end of time? Or, are we waiting his coming into our lives each time we step forward in genuine Christian living?

May your "waiting" be filled with joy and hope.

Marty Lucas

### **Gospel Reading**

Mk 13:24-32

Jesus said to his disciples:

"In those days after that tribulation  
the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light,  
and the stars will be falling from the sky,  
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

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

"Learn a lesson from the fig tree.

When its 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.

Amen, I say to you,

this generation will not pass away  
until all these things have taken place.

Heaven and earth will pass away,  
but my words will not pass away.

"But of that day or hour, no one knows,  
neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."

## Reflection

For all of my planning and my organization, I often find myself throwing things together at the last minute when packing for a trip----even a lengthy one! Do you find you are also one of those people who procrastinate? Sometimes we think our lives are too busy otherwise to plan ahead.

The same might be said about how we plan for our life after death. Do we delay our repentance, perhaps put off a long-needed confession, or procrastinate about making positive changes in our lives, until our days on earth are almost over and we're about to make that big, "one-way trip" into eternity?

I am certain the Church gives us these particular readings at the end of the liturgical year not to frighten, but to remind us that we must *always* be ready, since the final moment of human history—or the final moment of our life here on earth—could come at *any* time. If we delay, we may never get the opportunity to do those things that will help us face our eternity.

Christ tells us to be ready because he wants us to live in faith! If we live in faith, then we have nothing to fear! Don't think this message is only for the elderly or those who have a terminal disease! Many young adults currently live lives that *they* describe as "boring": lives without direction, without purpose, without meaning. I would say that in many cases this is because they never stop to think about "the end" (the end of their lives, the end of the world) and how that relates to their present circumstances.

However, living in faith is something we *all* need to do, because it's "the end" that gives meaning and purpose to the present. It gives meaning to our "now." For example, at the beginning of every pro football season, players look to the end point they want to arrive at—namely, the Super Bowl. And that's what motivates them to practice hard and to play their best in the present moment. Thinking of *the terminal point of the season* doesn't depress them, it inspires them! The end gives meaning to the now. Every college student looks forward to that terminal point of his schooling - "graduation" - and to finally getting a job in his chosen field; this is what motivates him to study and work hard in the classes he's presently taking. The end gives meaning to the now.

And so it should be with the terminal point of life as a whole. Knowing that it will come someday shouldn't depress us; rather, it should inspire us to live for Christ, since living as good disciples in faithfulness to our baptism is what will bring us to His kingdom in the end. The end gives meaning to the now.