

33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time

Malachi 3:19-20a
Ps 98:5-9
2 Thessalonians 3:7-12
Luke 21:5-19

Monday November 14

Revelation 1:1-4; 2:1-5
Ps 1:1-4,6
Luke 18:35-43

Tuesday November 15

Revelation 3:1-6,14-22
Ps 15:2-5
Luke 19:1-10

Wednesday November 16

Revelation 4:1-11
Ps 150:1b-6
Luke 19:11-28

Thursday November 17 St. Elizabeth of Hungary

Revelation 5:1-10
Ps 149:1b-6a,9b
Luke 19:41-44

Friday November 18

Revelation 10:8-11
Ps 119:14,24,72,
103,111,131
Luke 19:45-48.

Saturday November 19

Revelation 11:4-12
Ps 144:1b,2,9-10
Luke 20:27-40

Jesus says that the day will come when not one stone of the temple will be left mortared to another, because it will all be torn down. He's reminding us that everything here on earth is temporary.

Think of what you enjoy here on earth. It's temporary. What causes you to suffer? It too is temporary. What of this world do you depend on? It's temporary. What do you admire, trust, save, hope for, spend working hours to achieve and plan relaxation hours for a reward? It's all temporary – unless we are using it for the Kingdom of God.

We know that we're supposed to focus on the things of God, things that will last for all of eternity, but we're uncomfortable with the blind faith that this requires. We are like the disciples who looked for God's vindication against injustices and immo-

rality in the temporal world: wars, earthquakes, plagues and famines. We wish that Jesus would hurry up with his Second Coming and stop all the evils and hardships.

In our daily lives, we seek God's help, but we look for something tangible upon which to base our faith. We want to know the future; we don't like the insecurity of not knowing what God has planned. We depend on what we can see more than we depend on God whom we cannot see, so we ask God for signs.



However, the best way to walk forward with God is to raise one foot in air for the next step, and – while that foot is still in the air – ask God: "Where do *You* want me to place my foot next?"

This takes balance; if we don't remain centered in God, we teeter and fall. If God doesn't show us immediately where to put our foot down to move forward, we can either fall away or fall into his hand.

God's hand is never temporary! God's hand provides true security based only on his endless, all-powerful, all-knowing love. It doesn't always feel that way, but his love and protection never fail.

Reflect & Discuss:

1. What help from God are you waiting for? What battles plague your life? Do you believe that your problem is temporary or do you fear that it's permanent?
2. What will you do this week to entrust yourself to the wisdom and guidance of Jesus?
3. When waiting for God's guidance, how do you stay centered on God? How do you find and hold your balance while you've got one foot wavering in the air?
4. What if you were to put your foot down in the wrong place and move in the wrong direction? Does God protect you then? How?