

Christ Our Hope Catholic Church

Faith In Laity Corner



30th Sunday Ordinary Times

Reading: Ex. 22:20-26, Mt. 22: 34-40

Fear the 'Wrath of God'

Welcome to the 30th week of Ordinary Times and we are moving towards the end of the church liturgical year. So much to pray for in our times; remembering our needs just keep growing. Today, we have a poignant reminder of our place in this world. We are all strangers in a land which is only on loan to us for a certain amount of time. Every one of us will have a different length of stay. What is sure is that, we are all on the way OUT!! As long as we are here today, rest assured you are going to be gone later, some sooner than others. So what should our actions be, if we have established that our stay is but temporal? Constantly as individuals we have to ask ourselves questions, the same for our leaders of government, church and workplace to what extent they are enhancing your chance for heaven or maybe not?

The opening sentence in Exodus is posed by God to us.

*“You shall not oppress or afflict a resident alien,
for you were once aliens residing in the land of Egypt.” (Ex. 22:20)*

There is biblical evidence which dictates to us, that there is a way we should treat the ‘alien’ or *immigrant or foreigner* in our midst. In reality, we too are passing through. Yet, the present direction of our society points away and puts a halt to the way our country once deal with foreigners- with special dignity. To welcome the ‘alien’ is not to *brow-beat* and insult the culture, upbringing, religion and reasons why many individuals leave their country with almost nothing and are willing to take a chance on life once more.

With new fearful policies against *‘aliens’ immigrants*, it is causing us to break one of the fundamental laws established by God to Moses, in order to begin to form the Chosen People of God, to become the Nation God promised to favor. The measure of the greatness of a nation on the world’s ‘radar’ is how well it cares for children, the poor, strangers, widows, and orphans. If as a country with wealth, deny providing simple provisions for those in our society, then *we lost what makes America great*. God does punish us for complacency... being able to do and ignoring or refusing to lend your voice. If we are only on Earth for a specific period of time, means that each person alive is an ‘alien’ if our real home is Heaven.

The Old Testament volumes explain the value of obedience, and in there have been recorded the demise of those, who refused to obey, listen or take heed.

*“If ever you wrong them and they cry out to me,
I will surely listen to their cry.” (Ex. 22:22)*

If there you believe in nothing, do believe this. **God does hear the cry of those who are treated with injustice.** There tears in the misery of injustice means disaster in the future for the perpetrators.

“If he cries out to me. I will listen; for I am compassionate.” (Ex.22:26)

Please observe that the punishment may not fall on the present generation, but brings distress and misery to the generation to follow. No one should want to cause the righteous wrath of God to *‘fall on them.’*

“My wrath will flare up..” (Ex. 22:23)

How often, have we heard of people who victimized, murdered or swindled others for their possessions, or used falsehood for acquiring mass wealth.... Their names are soon forgotten and the demise of their next generation becomes a sad tale indeed.

The Gospel, in the New Testament fulfills and expands the rules of the Old volumes.

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (Mt. 22:39)

Who is your neighbor? All those we meet along our path of life. Yes, the alien, the widow, the wealthy, the orphan, the homeless, the prostitute, the destitute, the homeless, the soldier, nurse, doctor, teacher, the influential businessman. We are commanded to treat them like you treat yourself, arrogant, the priest, the children.... *Treat them like they were you.*

This week as we celebrate the Day of the Dead, let us remember the lives of all the Saints in Heaven, who are our relatives and friends. We too, remember those who have died and are waiting for God's judgement.

Faith in Laity Corner is a weekly review of Sunday's readings written by
Brenda Chee Wah, a parishioner of Christ Our Hope Catholic Church
Lithonia, Georgia.

Available now on the Parish App. and webpage

<http://www.christourhopeatl.org/becoming-a-catholic/christ-our-hope-catholic-church-weekly-reflections.php>

Now on FaceBook – [Christ Our Hope Catholic Church Atlanta](#)

Your remarks, questions, and comments can be emailed to faithinlaity@gmail.com

Scriptures: www.usccb.org