

33rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1. Images of end of world and ultimate choices
 - a. Malachi describes two possibilities
 - i. World of fire- evildoers will be like stubble – ready to be burnt to a crisp
 - ii. World where God will be like warm sun to heal the those who fear his name
 - b. When first read this passage thought of two images
 - i. Magnifying glass and prism
 - ii. Magnifying glass can concentrate sun so that it starts fire
 - iii. Prism separate rays of sun so can see many colors of light
 - c. Faith is like prism – faith of believers shared in common not only protects us from power of God but gives beauty and healing power
 - i. Attitude of individualism separates us from faith
 - ii. In isolation God's power is concentrated beyond what we can absorb
 - iii. Through an attitude of survival of fittest we justify evildoing
 1. in evildoing we become liable to God's judgment
 2. our independence from God concentrates the destructive power of God
2. Problem for us is faith in Jesus does not protect us from suffering in this life
 - a. Jesus warns us of earthquakes and wars
 - i. Often these are used to predict end of world
 - ii. Says end is not yet
 1. reality is history is filled with wars and natural disasters
 2. Whether we are believers or not we will face difficulties
 - b. Challenge for Christians is that loyalty to our faith can put us at risk
 - i. Proclaiming life of simplicity and humility as ideals seems absurd to powerful
 - ii. Proclaiming dignity of life from conception to natural death will not always be attractive
 - iii. Simplicity can be seen as being against the economy,

- iv. opposition to war, abortion and death penalty not popular in what Popes calls culture of death
 - v. Proclaiming that God comes first has not been popular with many dictators who demand loyalty to nation above God
 - c. Jesus warns us opposition can lead to persecution
 - i. Wonder where are the healing rays
 - ii. But he says trust, have faith
 - iii. Trust that God will give us the words to answer our enemies.
- 3. Our hope is beyond this moment
 - a. We look to the future, day when we will face God
 - b. If we have supported one another in our faith we will see glory of God as if through the ultimate prism
 - i. We will see God as loving God who brings us healing
 - c. We will also find ourselves vindicated
 - i. Those who have seemed to have power have always had to face the purifying fire of God's justice
 - ii. Even the most powerful and vindictive empire has fallen
 - iii. No matter how evil a ruler is, one day he faces God
- 4. So Jesus encourages us to put our trust in Him
 - a. We must support one another to see His presence in our life
 - b. Through sharing our faith we will come together in healing warmth of the sun of justice.