

11.16.2018 – Friday – 32nd Week in Ordinary Time

II St. John 1:4-9 LK 17:26-37

What does Jesus mean when he says that one person will be taken and another left?

1. God judges everyone individually on how each person has responded to his gracious mercy and invitation to accept his Son as Lord and Ruler over all.

2. The Lord Jesus gives us personal freedom to accept or reject him as Lord and Savior. We are free to live as citizens of his kingdom or to choose for the kingdom of darkness that stands in opposition to God and his rule.

3. No one can pass off their personal responsibility to someone else - no matter how close the ties may be in this present life.

4. We will each have to give an account to the Judge of All for how we have accepted or rejected him as our lord and savior.

Now a. The good news is that the Lord Jesus freely offers each one of us the grace, strength, and help we need to turn to him to receive pardon for our sins and healing for our minds and hearts so we can embrace “his good will” for our lives and find the way to our heavenly Father's home.

b. The Lord Jesus gives us his Holy Spirit to lead and guide us in his wisdom, truth, and love.

c. The Holy Spirit helps us to turn away from sin and rebellion and to embrace God's way of love, righteousness (moral goodness), and holiness.

The Lord's warning of judgment is motivated **by his love for each one of us.**

A. That is why He does not desire the death of any one (Ezekiel 18:23 and 33:11).

B. He bids us to choose for life rather than death - for goodness and righteousness rather than sin and evil (Deuteronomy 30:19).

So dear brothers and sisters The Lord's 'Day of Judgment' will bring terror and disaster for those who have not heeded his warning or who have refused his love and gracious help. The Day of the Lord's Return will be a cause for great joy and vindication for those who have put their trust in the Lord Jesus.

The people in Noah's time ignored the Lord's warning of judgment because their hearts were hardened and they were rebellious towards God. When the great flood swept over the earth, they missed the boat, literally!

Whose boat or safety net are you staking your life on - the world's life raft to short-lived success and happiness or to the indestructible Ark of God whose foundation is Jesus Christ and his victorious cross?

Those whose hope is firmly anchored in heaven will not be disappointed when the day of final judgment comes. They rejoice even now that their names are written in heaven (Luke 10:20) and they look with eager longing for the day when they will see the Lord face to face (Revelation 22:4).

Is your hope firmly placed in the Lord Jesus and his return in glory?

Let us pray like this

"Lord Jesus Christ, I place all my hope in you because you have redeemed the world by your death on the cross and by your victory over the grave. Help me to never lose sight of the goal of heaven that I may live each day in joyful anticipation of your return in glory." Let me also

seek the Ark of God and may this “Ark of God” lead me to be hopeful for the joyful entrance into His heavenly abode.

JESUS I TRUST IN YOU