

I can remember times as a kid when older and bigger kids than me would take over the basketball court, take away our basketball or football, and kick me and my friends off the court or field so that they could play. And about the only thing we could say was, "Some day you'll get yours." I guess that's the hardest I could curse as a kid.

We hear a similar message today in Malachi's warning or prophecy, "Lo, the day is coming..." If you get a chance, read the whole of the Book of Malachi; it's a very short three chapters. It's a foreshadowing of the coming of John the Baptist and the warning to get back on the right path of God, to give God His due in prayer and sacrifice. And it reminds us that God sees all, the good AND the wicked, and knows what is in our hearts, hearts that all too often need to be purified and set straight again.

St Paul's very short second letter to the Thessalonians seems to continue the theme, "Lo, the day is coming", as he encourages them to keep their faith in Christ Jesus, even thru their time of expectation of the second coming, which they thought would be VERY soon. But more so, that they should NOT give up their daily duties - work, caring for family, eating, prayer - because the time of the parousia, the second coming, is not known. He encourages them to continue living their good and faithful lives while instructing others among them to do the same. As Jesus had spoken, "Neither the day nor the hour is known, except to the Father."

In today's gospel, Jesus foretells the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem, "the days will come when there will not be left a stone upon another stone ...", and of the persecutions that will fall upon those who follow him, "because of my name." For those who continue to follow his commandments, love God and love your

neighbor, he says, "By your perseverance you will secure your lives." In this we understand their 'eternal' lives with the angels and saints in heaven.

For us here today, at this celebration of the Word and sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ, the end is near, but we don't know HOW near. So we, as were the Jews and early Christians throughout time, are to pay attention to the writings of the prophets, the Apostles, the holy men and women who were open to the movements of God in their lives, and are called to NOT lay back and ABSORB the graces God pours upon us freely, but to use those graces, put them into action, to invite, encourage, and lead others toward lives that are pleasing to God, to bring others to KNOW, LOVE, and SERVE our Lord in this life, that they may be with Him forever in the next. This is the calling of ALL those baptized in Christ.

I don't know if that "some day" ever came to those who bullied me, I just grew up knowing that's not the way I wanted to treat others. And I'm not holding my breath waiting for the end to come – there's a lot of hearts out there still needing to be touched and turned in the right direction. But when my time has come I'm not going to ask God, "Is this the end?", I'm just going to tell Him, "Surprise me."