

Wednesday of the 34th Week in Ordinary Time

Lectionary: 505

Revelation 15:1-4

Psalm 98:1, 2-3AB, 7-8, 9

Luke 21:12-19

By Julie Vieira, IHM

Happy Thanksgiving Eve, dear Sisters and Friends.

Our celebration of the holiday is certainly very different this year, but one thing that does not change is the deep gratitude that we have for each and every one of you. You are a shining light in a world that is dim right now with many struggles. When I think of you, I truly rejoice, "Great and wonderful are all your works, Lord, mighty God!" (Rev 15:3)

Our readings today are richly complex, intermingling images of past, present and future.

The message is clear though: in any time or place, whenever the kingdom of God is proclaimed, there will be disruption ... a disturbance, an interruption, a disordering ... a radical change in how we live and in how we understand ourselves, the world and God.

This disruption manifests in many ways:

- dialogue, questioning, confrontation, unrest, resistance
- agitation, confrontation, protest, persecution, embracing

We see this disruption in our own hearts when Good News hits home deep in our hearts. I remember the first time being "confronted" with inclusive language. I could not understand why everyone didn't just "get it" that "mankind," "man," "men," included women. I was too used to sexist language to know that it was an aberration and an offense, not the normative. As much as I tried to justify it as "the way we've always done it" and "why rock the boat?" I found I could not tolerate it any longer. It was like a tiny, disruptive little seed was planted in my heart. I had to wrestle with it, allow it to disrupt me until I could break free of my own limited perceptions

We also see this disruption in groups, communities, societies and cultures. Just look at the major unjust "isms" of our time, that is, the oppressive and discriminatory attitudes or beliefs: sexism, racism, ableism, bodyism, etc. The Good News forces us to look not only in our own hearts but to how we have built these "isms" into the fabric of our lives, our government, our culture and even our Church.

How do we navigate the disruptions we have in our hearts, in our relationships and in the world? Jesus never fails in guiding us. Let's look at today's Gospel. We are called:

- to give testimony (21:13)
- to trust in providence (21:14) that God will "give you a wisdom in speaking" (21:15)
- to accept the consequences of discord and even disownment from loved ones (21:16)
- to know that we may be hated (21:17)

- and finally, to have perseverance (21:19)

We follow Jesus' words in "big" ways when we stand at the corner of Elm and Monroe protesting in support of Black and Indigenous People of Color or in our corporate statements against human trafficking.

We also follow Jesus' words in "small" ways when we disrupt someone who uses a derogatory term or makes an inappropriate joke or when we disrupt a "tried and true" custom because it no longer reflects the truth or when we disrupt our own ways of thinking because God is inviting us to a deeper way of being.

My dear sisters and friends, we are called to live and proclaim with our lives the kingdom of God now, not the past, not the future. Now.

Am I open to the disruption that the Good News brings?

What is God's word to me right now in the warm earth of my own heart?