

Reflection by Gregory Sunter

After the seasons of Lent and Easter and several particular feast days, today we return again to Ordinary Time and to the gospel of Matthew as the gospel of Year A in the liturgical cycle. Today's gospel is a perfect one for drawing us back to Ordinary Time. It comes at the end of the great Sermon on the Mount from the gospel of Matthew (ch 5-7) which is a centrepiece of teaching in that gospel. The Sermon on the Mount contains the teaching of the Beatitudes and then a whole series of teachings in which Jesus reinterprets the Law of Moses. Chapter 7 finishes off the teaching sequence with some warnings about the right and wrong ways to respond to these teachings. Today's passage comes at the very end of this whole sequence and tells us that everyone who listens to the teachings of Jesus and acts on them 'will be like a sensible man who built his house on rock'. Their lives will be built on solid foundations and none of the storms and gales that life throws at them will bring their life down.

For the past few months we have moved through one of the two great peaks of the Church year – the seasons of Lent and Easter through to the celebration of Pentecost. We could regard moving into Ordinary Time as the Church drawing a great breath and giving a sigh of relief after the intense focus of the last months, but that's not what Ordinary Time is about. Ordinary Time reminds us that our faith is not always lived at the heights of Easter and Christmas, but is lived in the everyday and in the routine of our lives. Like the wise man of today's parable, Ordinary Time reminds us that our lives must have a solid foundation.

Questions:

Q. Why does Jesus seem to have a problem with people claiming to do things in his name?

Q. How does the concept of 'Ordinary Time' sit with needing a solid foundation to your faith?

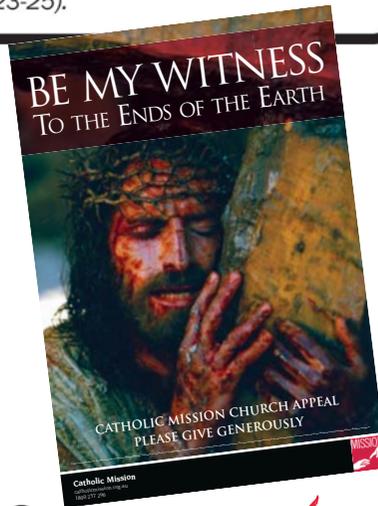
Q. How do episodes of your own life relate to the parable of the two builders?

Q. How might you use this parable in responding to a question of 'what difference does faith make?'

SCRIPTURAL CONTEXT

Matthew

The writer of the gospel of Matthew set out to depict Jesus as the new Moses for the Jewish people. Moses was revered as the great law-giver. The five books of the Law (the Pentateuch, or first five books of the Bible) were ascribed to Moses. To draw the parallel with Moses, the gospel writer has Jesus deliver five blocks of teaching or five discourses throughout the gospel: the Sermon on the Mount (ch 5-7); instructions for mission (ch 10); parables (ch 13); community instructions (ch 18); and a sermon on the end days (ch 23-25).



43
days to go

Register now!
wyd08wooll.org



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Our Sunday Word

St Michael's Parish, Nowra

nowraparish.org.au

Ninth Sunday (Year A) ~ Season of the Year

1 June 2008

Catholic Mission Sunday

First Reading 11:18.26-28.32

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

Moses said to the people: 'Let these words of mine remain in your heart and in your soul; fasten them on your hand as a sign and on your forehead as a circlet.

'See, I set before you today a blessing and a curse: a blessing, if you obey the commandments of the Lord our God that I enjoin on you today; a curse, if you disobey the commandments of the Lord your God and leave the way I have marked out for you today, by going after other gods you have not known. You must keep and observe all the laws and customs that I set before you today.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 30

R/Lord, be my rock of safety.

1. In you, O Lord, I take refuge. Let me never be put to shame. In your justice, set me free, hear me and speedily rescue me. (R.)

2. Be a rock of refuge to me, a mighty stronghold to save me, for you are my rock, my stronghold. For your name's sake, lead me and guide me. (R.)

3. Let your face shine on your servant. Save me in your love. Be strong, let your heart take courage, all who hope in the Lord. (R.)

Second Reading 3:21-25,28

From the letter of St Paul to the Romans

God's justice that was made known through the Law and the Prophets has now been revealed outside the Law, since it is the same justice of God that comes through faith to everyone, Jew and pagan alike, who believes in Jesus Christ. Both Jew and pagan sinned and forfeited God's glory, and both are justified through the free gift of his grace by being redeemed in Christ Jesus who was appointed by God to sacrifice

his life so as to win reconciliation through faith since, as we see it, a man is justified by faith and not by doing something the Law tells him to do.

The word of the Lord.



Gospel Acclamation Jn 15:5

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the vine and you are the branches, says the Lord; those who live in me, and I in them, will bear much fruit. Alleluia!

Gospel 7:21-27

The holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: 'It is not those who say to me, "Lord, Lord", who will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the person who does the will of my Father in heaven. When the day comes many will say to me, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, cast out demons in your name, work many miracles in your name?" Then I shall tell them to their faces: I have never known you; away from me, you evil men!

'Therefore, everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a sensible man who built his house on rock. Rain came down, floods rose, gales blew and hurled themselves against that house, and it did not fall: it was founded on rock. But everyone who listens to these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a stupid man who built his house on sand. Rain came down, floods rose, gales blew and struck that house, and it fell; and what a fall it had!'

The Gospel of the Lord.



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2299(bh), **70 TICKETS still to be sold to make this a successful fund raising event** – PLEASE SUPPORT!!!

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▪ **Also WYD lessons & booklets for yrs 5/6** available – Please phone Lyn 4423 1009 if you can help.

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HOLY SPIRIT FUNDRAISING event for the proposed hall will be held on Sun 15 June at 12 noon – soup and slice luncheon. Cost \$5 plus a raffle. Please rsvp Michael 4443 7732 or Julie 4443 0848 for catering purposes.

BOMADERRY – a new roster is due to be completed – if you would like to change your time, or would like to participate please contact Colleen Blundell 4421 4448. **It is most important to organise someone else on the roster** to take your place if you are unable to attend.

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PLANNED GIVING ENVELOPES – the next set of envelopes will be available at all centres for you to collect on the weekend of 14/15 June

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1st Holy Communion – w/end of 25/26 Oct.

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