

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

October 8, 2017

The Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 5:1-7 + Philipians 4:6-9 + Matthew 21:33-43



Reflection by: Sister Michel Rodgers, OP

In the past few weeks we have been overwhelmed with the wrath of Mother Nature. Hurricane after hurricane has ravaged the earth and thousands of people have borne the results of these catastrophes. How could we have prevented this? How could this have happened?

As in all mysteries we turn to God for answers. Paul reminds us in his letter to the Philippians to “keep on doing what we have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with us.” Matthew instructs the people that the vineyard will be given to those who will produce at the proper times.

Why do we look for God's presence only when disaster occurs? Are we not aware that people need housing at all times? That people are hungry every day? Will the 80% of the population who suffer from malnutrition disappear? Will the 20% who have more than they will ever need respond to the cries of the poor?

Paul encourages us not to be anxious, make our needs known to God. Only then will we have peace. An essay by Frederick Buechner tells us that the earth is a fragile place. “The return of chaos is always a possibility. The missiles are always in their silos needing only the push of the wrong finger or the right finger on the right button to unleash the unthinkable.” How aware we are of this prediction. As the reading from Matthew tells us, we have a choice to make. Will we be part of the cornerstone? Will we produce the fruit which will allow us to be share in the kingdom of God?