

In the Gospel we just heard, Jesus talks directly and plainly to us. He says that as a Disciple, we will struggle, have hardships and experience difficulties. There will be wars, natural disasters, and betrayals---even by those closest to us: family members. Then Jesus offers to us comfort, challenge and hope. How so? He relates that if we stay true to Him and live out the values He has taught us, we will gain our souls; we will experience the Divine; we will have eternal life. Jesus is encouraging us to hang in there; to persevere; to stay the course; to be faithful regardless of the situations that surround us.

We know what our lives are like. We know the struggles, hardships and difficulties we are enduring. We know the suffering, doubts, fears and terrors that eat away inside us. We know the misunderstandings, ridicule and gossip that are a part of our life. Jesus lovingly pleads for us to stay faithful, be honest, to have integrity; Jesus invites us to be kind and loving; to have care and concern for the poor and needy; to be forgiving.

We may not receive acclaim or fame by following the way of Jesus; being true to Him as a Disciple. We will receive something far greater.

My sisters and brothers: We will receive the gift of eternal life. Isn't that our deepest desire?