

32nd Sunday B, 2018

“They will receive a very severe condemnation.”

In the Good News of Mark and more so in the Good News of Matthew Chapter 23, Jesus gives a severe condemnation of the leaders and priests of his religion.

Six times Jesus condemns the leaders.

Six woes Jesus pronounces against the leaders.

Six times Jesus calls them hypocrites who murder the prophets, who rob the people, who lock the Kingdom of heaven, who pervert the truth.

They are a brood of vipers.

They are children of hell.

They are blind guides.

They are whitewashed tombs, beautiful on the outside but inside are full of dead men’s bones and every kind of filth.

To the leaders of his religion Jesus says six times,

Woe to you:

Deep suffering from misfortune upon you.

Affliction and grief upon you.

Ruinous and economic calamity upon you.

In Chapter 13 of the Good News of St. Mark, Jesus says about the temple,

“Do you see these great buildings [where people worship]? There will not be one stone left upon another that will not be thrown down” and “persecution and tribulation shall come upon those who follow me.”

In Chapter 14 of St. Mark's Good News, the conspiracy to arrest and kill Jesus is hatched and grows to maturity.

Then there is agony in the garden, betrayal by close best friends. There is fake news and dressed up lies. There is a beating with whips. There is a show trial with special prosecutors, guilty judges, and unholy priests.

You know the rest of this good news.

There is the scandal of the cross.

There is a scandalous crucifixion.

The scared and hiding, doubting, fearful future founders of the Holy Roman Catholic Church are scandalized.

Drunk on the Holy Spirit, they will husband a scandalous religion that declares that an executed criminal lives.

That a virgin birthed a sinless child.

That sinners by grace can become saints.

That Jesus Christ who was fully human, is truly the Son of God.

This is the gangster Good News of Mary's Son.

Follow Him!