

**Dimensions of Life**      Thirty-fourth Week in Ordinary Time      Wednesday, November 28, 2018      Rev 15:1-4;      **Lk 21:12-19**      (There is an outer life and an inner life, and they all belong to the same person, and in a sense they cannot be separated.)

**“By your perseverance you will secure your lives.”**

“Lives” here of course must be distinguished from what we normally think of as life because this whole reading is about how much in jeopardy our lives are. We will be persecuted, hated, brought before kings and governors, and so our lives are in jeopardy in one sense of the word life. But in another sense they are secure, and this is what the disciple has to learn how to experience, **the double sides of life, how in one sense everything is going down, as St. Paul says, in another sense it’s all being built up.** There is an outer life and an inner life, and they all belong to the same person, and in a sense they cannot be separated. **So simultaneously we are experiencing death and rebirth, persecution and security, torment and bliss.** That is what all the saints testify to.

**Many of us don’t actually experience the whole of life because we have narrowed down our vision.** We narrow down our perspectives. We just take in a little bit of what is, shutting out a great deal often because of fear, but this is about the whole. And by the way, this is not about the immortality of the soul. That’s not what Jesus is saying. The Bible never speaks about the immortality of the soul. I shouldn’t say never; the Book of Wisdom might have two texts that do. **But ordinarily, neither the Old nor the New Testament talks about the immortality of the soul. Rather we believe in the resurrection of the body.** We believe in the complete restoration of the whole person.

Meanwhile we still have various dimensions that we are supposed to be living in, and we often cut off some of those dimensions, foolishly, usually out of fear, sometimes out of something else. And **Jesus is trying to say there is no reason really to be worried or anxious about your life. Yes, in one dimension it will be threatened, but not the whole of your life.** That’s just a part. Don’t lose yourself in that part. Let yourself expand and be part of the whole, and **recognize your unity already with God and me.** I will teach you. **“I myself shall give you a wisdom in speaking that all your adversaries will be powerless to resist or refute.”** This is what we need to see.