

A LIGHT FOR OUR PATH! - Ever since the time of the great King David, the Israelite community had been waiting for God's promise of a mighty messiah to be fulfilled – someone who would finally and once-and-for-all make all things right and just, conquer the powerful oppressor of the Roman Empire, and establish a lasting era of peace and prosperity. But, it still had not yet happened!

So, they became a bit worn down and impatient. And, understandably so --- when we remember that Luke wrote this gospel about 40 years after Jesus' passion, death, resurrection, ascension – and all of these awful things listed in the reading were actually happening, including the shattering destruction of the magnificent Temple in Jerusalem

So, what is a disciple supposed to do?! Well, it actually comes down to two basic things: Look to God, Look to Others.

In the midst of all of the challenges, Jesus offers a rather surprising instruction: “You are not to prepare your defense beforehand, for I myself shall give you a wisdom in speaking that all your adversaries will be powerless to resist or refute.” In other words, keep looking to God – because the divine light of God's powerful love is far stronger than any powers of darkness, and his own suffering, death and resurrection shows it!

And in today's Second Reading we hear Saint Paul instruct his community of disciples who were getting all absorbed in “minding the business of others” that they should be doing one thing: “work quietly”. It is the difference between gossiping about others instead of looking to others so as to be responsive to their needs!

So, if you want to be ready for the Lord's return to us one day, and if you want to experience more “Light” in your life, then keeping focused on God & Others is really important! And, happily, these two elements are important “component parts” or “Missionary Priorities” of our evangelization-based Pastoral Plan “A Light For Our Path”! Keeping focused on God is really all about Worship --- and keeping focused on Others is about Sending!

In a “counter-intuitive” way, Jesus sees that it is exactly when things are so dramatically not the way we know they are supposed to be that a great opportunity presents itself to offer witness about what does make things right – love of God (Worship) and love of Others (Sending)! And that really does offer a Light For Our Path!