

## Lessons from These Verses

The Choir has just sung a wonderful arrangement of a hymn that's very appropriate not only for this time of year but also for today's Gospel message. Leaning on the Everlasting arms of God is something that Jesus did, something the disciples did, and something we need to do too.

It's especially needful to be leaning on the Everlasting arms of God when we face some of the tough decisions that we all have to make in life. Jesus was faced with just such a decision when he was warned that Herod was out to get him. How many of us faced with a similar warning would have said, "Well the people in Jerusalem have been waiting this long, they can wait a little longer...Peter, James, John, why don't you show me your fishing boats..."

We all face tough decisions in life...For you young adults—some of your choices are: what college should I go to? Can my family even afford college? What kind of a career do I want? Should I join the military? Should I leave home? Should I get married? Should we have children? For those of you who are my age—Some of the questions are the same, except the military won't have us, and we're facing the prospect of watching our kids get married and make us grandparents—some other questions are: Should I take care of my parent with Alzheimer's or cancer or recovering from a stroke or heart attack? And what sacrifices will I have to make to do that? Should I sell my home and move into an apartment? Who's going to hire someone my age? For you seasoned citizens you face some of the toughest choices of all—who's going to take care of me if I get sick? Should I give up driving? How can I afford to live on what I'm making?

These are all hard decisions that we must face everyday? And this certainly isn't the whole list, I'm sure that you can come up with more. What I wonder is, how do people who don't lean on the everlasting arms of God make those decisions? We have the blessed assurance of Jesus Christ himself that he will never leave us alone. He will come to us and send aid in the form of the Holy Spirit. Even if we live alone, we are never truly alone because we have God on our side.

Jesus knew that God was with him, and so he wasn't afraid to go to Jerusalem to face certain death. Jesus also knew that his message of salvation had been rejected by the faithful at Jerusalem—which is why we have that poetic verse about how much he loved them---**Luke 13:34** <sup>34</sup> Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! But he went anyway. He faced the hard reality of what going to Jerusalem meant and he did it anyway—for those that rejected him, for those that loved him, and for those who he knew would come to him down through the ages. He went to Jerusalem for us.

May we always have the courage, the strength and the faith to trust in God to make the best out of any situation we are in—even life or death situations.

This is the Third Sunday in Lent, there are only four more to go. May you learn to always put your faith and trust in the everlasting arms of God, he is merciful and loving and kind and he will not let you down. If you have committed sins confess them to God and repent of them, and they will be forgiven. God is your comfort and your strength a safe harbor

in the storms of life. Whether you are at the beginning of your life, or the end of it, God is there with you. You need never fear the outcome of a decision you make with God leading the way.

AMEN!