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| **Song: "Pompeii" -- Bastille****THE RUBBLE OR OUR SINS** |

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| **The Gospel** | [**TGIMMadditionalPOMPEs.docx**](TGIMMadditionalPOMPEs.docx)**MATTHEW 11:20-24** |

**Then Jesus began to reproach the towns where most of his mighty deeds had been done, since they had not repented. "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you Bethsaida! For if the mighty deeds done in your midst had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would long ago have repented in sackcloth and ashes. But I tell you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you. And as for you, Capernaum: ‘Will you be exalted to heaven? You will go down to the netherworld.’ For if the mighty deeds done in your midst had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom on the day of judgment than for you."**  |
| ***Gospelthink: I wanted the people of the towns to see that they should repent and turn to their God.*Am I as repentant as I should be?** |
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***"I was left to my own devices: many days fell away with nothing to show. And the walls kept tumbling down in the city that we love. Great clouds roll over the hills, bringing darkness from above. But if you close your eyes, does it almost feel like nothing changed at all? Does it almost feel like you've been here before? How am I gonna be an optimist about this? We were caught up and lost in all of our vices. Oh, where do we begin, the rubble or our sins?"***  |
| **In the year 79 AD, the volcano Mt. Vesuvius erupted and buried the ancient Roman city of Pompeii. Calling that destruction to mind, the rock group Bastille cleverly sings about the destruction of good things in their song "Pompeii." That which caused the destruction? They sing it: "We were caught up and lost in all of our vices." The hopeful element in the song is that they seem to want to do something about it: "Oh, where do we begin? The rubble or our sins?"A volcano did not destroy Tyre, Sidon or Sodom in Old Testament times. But the cause of their destruction was the same one mentioned by the group Bastille in their song: the people were "caught up and lost in all their vices." The sad part, as Jesus laments in the Gospel, is that they did not repent from those vices, and disturbing Jesus even more, the people of his locale, the towns of Chorazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum were doing the same thing. They were not showing any repentance for their sins. Jesus solemnly condemned their refusal.             Even though the clever video of the song seems to end in despair, the song itself is hopeful since it seems that the person in the song wants to do something about the vices that have caused the destruction and darkness. At least, the person in the song is asking the right question, even though, as they sing, an optimist may have a difficult time finding anything to be optimistic about the situation.We must indeed face our sins if we want any change in our lives. It is only when we have recognized how much we have hurt ourselves and others by what we have done that we will begin to help the situation of the world around us.**  |
| ***PRAYER*** **Good and gracious God, there is sin in the world. Your Son has pointed it out to us and we are well aware of it as we look around us. Give us the grace to recognize any sin of our own as we want to help our world. Be with us, we pray.** |
| **+++++****GUIDE FOR CLASSROOM PRESENTATION AND PERSONAL ENRICHMENTTheme: Seeking change in our lives, we must begin with our sins.DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**1. In the Gospel, repentance of sins is the key element in Jesus' lament concerning the people of the different cities. What is the best way to show repentance of sins?2. Text analysis: "the netherworld" is usually translated to be "hell." Do you think that such scare tactics have any effect on people?3. Analysis: "the day of judgment." The Lord is saying that repentance from sin is absolutely necessary in order to be judged well at our final judgment. What is your understanding of the "day of judgment"? See *Catechism of the Catholic Church, second edition,* numbers 1038-1041.  4. Text analysis: "Many days fell away with nothing to show." What is the meaning of the sentence?5. In general, are you optimistic about our world? Yes or no and why?6. In your opinion, what is the best part of being in our world right now?7. Obviously, the meditation reflects that if we want to change, we must begin with our sins. What is the "sin" most in need of correction in the world?8. The meditation and song presumes that we are people who want to do something about our sins? Why are there some people who do not want to do anything about the sins in their lives or the world?9. Project: the presenter may want to make a small presentation on the "sins" of Tyre, Sidon and Sodom from the Hebrew Scriptures.10. Obtain a copy of the video to the song. What is most striking about the video?11. What does the song "Pompeii" teach young people?    |
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