

## Holy Thursday: Jesus' sign of the times

Song: [Surrender](#)

### Prayer

Reading [Luke 21:5-38](#)– four? vss each

### Reflection

- After witnessing the widow giving what she had, the disciples remark on beauty of the temple.
- When Jesus replies that the temple will be destroyed they do not question that at all, but want to know when this will happen
- And the Jesus gives a lengthy account or prophecy about the events that the disciples will have to watch out for.
- I am not intelligent enough to be able to relate all that Jesus says here with events that have happened and events that are still to happen.
- As is often the case with prophecies in the Bible the time horizon is not given. So it is difficult to discern with things have happened, will happen or will happen a number of times!
- But it is not the intention of Jesus to give a covid roadmap, but to prepare the disciples and us to see the world and history in a different perspective.
  
- But I would like to focus on the encouragements that Jesus gives in the midst of all the despair in the world and in the Christian community.
  
- v15: “I will give you the words and the wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict” – but do not prepare
- v16-19:” ... some of you will even be put to death .... but not a hair on your head will perish. By standing firm you will gain life.” Do not perish means that even though we die we will be with Jesus. Jesus has won the victory over life, so we should not be afraid of death or suffering. But Jesus does not say that suffering or death will be avoided!
- v28: “When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” We have seen some of what Jesus says here happen. But we should not despair... instead we should take courage: our redemption is getting nearer. Jesus exhorts us to stand up and lift our heads!
- v34: “Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the anxieties of life” In a sense this is the same as ‘do not worry’. Whatever happens to our world or to our bodies: our redemption is near. Resist any feelings of despair!
- v36: ‘Be always on the watch and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man’. Again this is the active waiting – in prayer but this time not for the world, but for ourselves so that we may be able to stand before Jesus at the end.

So in summary:

- Do not worry about what to say – Jesus will give you the words!
- Do not worry about our physical lives – Jesus will redeem you!
- Do not let the situation in the world affect you mentally or spiritually, but take courage.

- But do pray for the strength that we are not overcome by the despair of the world, so that we ourselves can at the end stand before Jesus.
- This reminds me of the Armour of God in Ephesians 6:13 “Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, *to stand*”
- Let’s pray for our standing with Jesus as we follow him. <silence>

## **Prayer**

**Song:** [Great is the darkness](#)