

NOVEMBER 28, 2019
Thursday of the 34th Sunday in OT
Luke 21: 20-28

BE PREPARED

Again, we are confronted with the reality of end times. These past days, all our readings are pointing to one thing: we need to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Son of Man. If we are prepared to face Him, we will be worthy of His Kingdom. If we are not, eternal damnation will await us. But God is giving us time to prepare, and we must do it now and not tomorrow because maybe tomorrow will not come.

In our gospel, we heard again the story of the destruction of Jerusalem and its people. Why and how did this happen? There are two kinds of suffering that happens to us. The first is the one we create for ourselves. We know that it is bad but we still do it. For example, smoking is dangerous to our health, and our friends, relatives and loved ones are telling us to stop smoking but we don't listen, until such time we get sick with cancer of the throat or lungs caused by being a chain-smoker or having an excessive addiction to cigarettes. Second, sufferings that we don't bring to ourselves but we have because of old age or our body is deteriorating, slowing down, or we have a weak immune system. They are a natural flow of life. We get sick.

The destruction of Jerusalem and its people could be avoided if they listened to the messengers of God, the prophets, who relayed that the people must leave behind their sinful ways. But they continued to sin and even killed the messengers that God sent them, including His Only Begotten Son Jesus Christ.

So, my brothers and sisters, as we close this liturgical year and enter the door of the Season of Advent, we are called by God to listen to His voice. We are called to humbly repent our sins and have a change of heart. Let us be prepared by submitting ourselves to His mercy and love in the sacrament of healing, the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Be reconciled to God and to our neighbors.