

OCTOBER 22, 2021  
Memorial of St. John Paul II, Pope  
Luke 12: 39-38

“HEED THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES.”

We are not perfect and we have our own goodness and darkness in our lives. The dark side in us always hinder us to be good and holy, we struggle with our own sinfulness. St. Paul in our first reading today recognized that there is a spiritual struggles within him. Paul acknowledged “For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.”<sup>1</sup> In spite of his sinfulness and weaknesses, Paul recognized that only and only Jesus would rescue him from the pit of danger and wretchedness. He won the struggles within him because he knew Christ was with him, and by the saving power of Jesus, he was healed, rescued and saved. We, too, have our own struggles and just as St. Paul did, let us come to Jesus, He will help, assist and strengthen us in all our own difficulties and spiritual battles.

In our gospel, our Lord speaks about how people predicted the weather by clouds or by the blowing of the wind, or interpret the appearance of earth and sky but lacking in the interpretation of the signs of the times that demands awareness, recognition and attention, that leads to action. “Jesus has been performing one sign after another through the power of his teaching and the authority that he brings, through the healing of the sick, the feeding of the hungry, the calming of storms, the liberating of people from evil forces... Yet, they do not seem to be able to see the clear hand of God in what he does. They follow him with curiosity to see what they may be able to get for themselves but very few commit themselves to following him as disciples.”<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Romans 7: 18-20 Holy Bible NRSVCE Canadian Bible Society

<sup>2</sup> [livingspace.sacredspace.ie](http://livingspace.sacredspace.ie)

My brothers and sisters, after we saw and experienced God's love, blessings and graces, we must follow the Lord with all our hearts and souls as truly faithful disciples of Him. It is not enough to say and look at God's goodness, we need to proclaim and live it as we are living example of God's abundant mercy and compassion. St. John Paul II always read the signs of the times during his life in Poland and as pope of the Catholic Church. During his papacy, he showed God's face to those whom he met, the God who is merciful and compassionate, who loves the poor and the sick, and those in need. In all his speeches, encyclicals especially the 'Evangelium Vitae', he spoke against abortion and euthanasia, and the culture of death that is becoming prevalent in the world. He strongly disagree with a culture of wealth and pleasure that lives as though sin did not exist, and God did not exist. He is the "Pope who revealed the love of God through years of emptying himself out for the Lord and His people showed us the beauty of a suffering endured in love and offered for others in his last days among us. With decreasing verbal eloquence because his lips stammered from the ravages of Parkinson's disease, he achieved something beyond words; he demonstrated the truth of the Christian message of love by revealing the God who came to suffer for us all in his beautiful silence. Then he went home to the Father having become a seed of the "New Springtime" he proclaimed. The Lord proclaimed that "unless a grain of wheat fall to the ground..." and when this Pope's prophetic mission on earth was over he joined the Lion of the Tribe of Judah and the Lamb who was slain for our sins. On April 2, at 9.37 p.m., the Octave of Easter and the Vigil of Divine Mercy Sunday, he died, falling to the ground as a grain of wheat in imitation of the Lord whom He loved and served so well."<sup>3</sup>

My brothers and sisters, let us therefore imitate St. John Paull II in his humility, dedicated life for Christ and love for humanity as we offer ourselves to Christ. May we see Christ in our brothers and sisters as we serve them with the embrace of love and committed faith. St. John Paul II, pray for us.

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<sup>3</sup> [www.catholic.org](http://www.catholic.org)