

Lord make your ways known to me!

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalm 25:4-5, 8-9, 10+14

Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

The Lord says he will fulfill the promise made to the house of Israel and Judah. A just shoot shall be raised up for David and he will do what is just and right. At this time Judah shall be safe and Jerusalem shall dwell in security.

The psalmist seeks the Lord to make known his ways and his paths and so be guided in truth. The Lord shows the right path to those who stray and guides the humble to justice. The Lord's paths direct the faithful, those who keep the decrees, with kindness and constancy; the covenant and decrees are for our instruction.

Paul prays that the brothers and sisters in Thessalonica will have their love increase for one another and for all. The Lord will strengthen their hearts so they will be holy and blameless as they are exhorted to conduct themselves in ways that please God using as a guide the instructions they received in Jesus' name.

Jesus tells the disciples there will be signs in the sun and the moon and the powers of heaven will be shaken. On earth nations will be in dismay and many people will die of fright in anticipation of things to come. The faithful are to stand erect with raised heads because redemption will be at hand as the Son of Man descends from the heavens. Be vigilant and pray you have the strength to escape the imminent tribulations.

The Father will be pleased if you conduct yourself
According to the instructions received from the Son.
The Holy Spirit will help you to renew your efforts.

The axiom "forewarned is forearmed" acquires a new and critical meaning when applied to preparedness for the last days and we are not to let that day surprise us since *it comes at a least expected time*. (Matt 24:44). A half-hearted spiritual approach will not do as we walk the paths of life because our lives must be examples of compassion, concern, justice, truth and love for all and only in this way are we sure not to miss the signs indicating the Son of Man is returning.

Until we reach the end of "our own time" our concern is with living life to the fullest. In the very first chapter of *Genesis* there is mentioned the tree of life while in the creation passages life is revealed as the glory of the Creator in a series of actions that are "good." Christ was always concerned with life; how the mustard seed can grow into a large bush; how the vine grows branches; how he came so that others may have life abundantly; how even Lazarus was raised to life; how the spirit works on this earth beyond our own existence so that all happenings are charged with hope and promise. We need to be careful on how the ways of the world try to influence us with their opinions.



The Venerable John Henry Newman says: *"If, indeed, we listen to the world, we shall take another course.... we shall have a secret shrinking from the Church's teaching. We shall have an uneasy, uncomfortable feeling when mention is made of the maxims of holy men and ascetical writers, not liking them, yet not daring to dissent. We shall be scanty in supernatural acts, and have little or nothing of the habits of virtue, which are formed by them, and are an armor of proof against temptation....it is our mere wisdom to be thus detached from all things below. "*