

Weekly Sermon Discussion Guide

November 13, 2022

The Power of Winging It **Living the Liturgical Year** **Luke 21.5-19**

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- * What did you hear?
- * What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- * What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

KEY VERSES

⁵ When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, ⁶ "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down." ⁷ They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?"
¹² "But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. ¹³ This will give you an opportunity to testify. ¹⁴ So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance, ¹⁵ for I will give you words^[g] and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶ You will be betrayed even by parents and siblings, by relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷ You will be hated by all because of my name. ¹⁸ But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹ By your endurance you will gain your souls.

REFLECTION

At first glance this passage seems to have more to do with the end of the world, as Jesus speaks to his disciples of wars, earthquakes, famines, and signs from heaven. In response to this prophesied loss of control, the disciples react like the rest of us would, asking for more information: "...when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" (v. 7) **What are the things out of your control that cause you the most anxiety (the world around you, how others perceive you, your family, children, etc)?**

The news of the temple crumbling (v.5-6) seems to be setting them up to receive the next bit of more personal news: of their imminent persecution, arrest, betrayal, hatred, and even execution. Jesus' advice on how to handle these situations best translates to just winging it: "So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance, for I will give you words" (v.14-15). Winging it is actually a form of faith, an opportunity to trust that God will meet you in your moment of need. **When has God met you in a moment where you felt completely unprepared, and given you wisdom and words?**

Jesus concludes with, "But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls" (v.18-19). There is freedom in realizing that even the most prepared among us have to wing it on a daily basis. Thankfully, Jesus offers us this alternative way to live: to accept the world as it changes, with the assurance that He meets us in our need. **This week, welcome your challenges as opportunities to wing it, and note God's presence and provision as you surrender control.**