



Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

Image by Christine Sponchia

ABOUT HISTORY'S FINAL CHAPTER

By Sr. Christine Hilliard, CSJ

Today's Gospel

Jesus said to his disciples: "Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life, and that day catch you by surprise like a trap. For that day will assault everyone who lives on the face of the earth. Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man."

LUKE 21:34-26 (NEW AMERICAN BIBLE)

"So keep your eyes straight. Do not let your hearts fall to the ground. Do not give yourselves to drinking or worrying about your life's possessions, or that day will take you by surprise. For it will come without warning, to all who live on the land, like a beaver that is snared in a trap. So stay on guard, praying that you will find a safe path through this time and stand strong before the True Human Being."

Reflection

The ancient peoples understood the history of the world to be evolving in stages. There was a “first stage” (creation) and, logically then at some point there would be a “final stage.” The principle concern of apocalyptic literature (which this section of Luke represents) is the understanding of the final stage of the history of humanity and of the world. The images of the end of the current world depict its coming apart initially (“the Great Tribulation”), then coming together into the kingdom of God. The apocalyptic message is intended to sustain faith and hope in God’s desire and power to save in the midst of current oppression.

Jesus urges certain behaviors during this “end of the world” time as his disciples await his return and the coming of the kingdom of God. They must be attentive to the present moment, i.e. “be vigilant at all times.” He urges: Don’t let the anxieties of daily life (manifested in “carousing and drunkenness”) dominate you, thus replacing your confidence in God. Rather be eagerly ready, like the people of the Exodus, for God’s deliverance.



Sunset - Los Angeles, CA

For Pondering

- What phrase in either of the reading translations catches your attention?
How might it form/inform your life today?
 - How do "end of the world" images and language affect your relationship with God? With other people? With creation? With your daily life behavior?
-

For Prayer

*My God,
You and only you know
how strongly I want
to believe in you,
to put all my faith
in you alone.
Help me make this desire
a reality.
Help me perceive
your Presence
and draw strength from it
every moment of my life,
through every trial I face.
Let that recognition bolster
my faith in you ---
wherever I go,
whatever I do.*

REBBE NACHMAN OF BRESLOV

**If you enjoy reading our reflections and would like to make
a donation towards this ministry, click the button below!**

[Support Us Here](#)



Center for
Spiritual
Development

COMPANIONS ON THE
SACRED JOURNEY



***Do you know someone who would like to receive
Daily Reflections? Please forward freely!***

Visit Website

714-744-3172

Join Mailing
List



To “Unsubscribe” from the daily reflections while remaining on our general mailing list, please [email us](#). The unsubscribe function below will unsubscribe you from all emails from CSD. Please know we will never share your information.

Center for Spiritual Development | 434 A South Batavia Street, Orange, CA 92868 714-744-3175

[Unsubscribe slongbotham@csjorange.org](mailto:slongbotham@csjorange.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data
Notice](#)

Sent by theccsd@csjorange.org