



**ARCHDIOCESE OF PALO-CATECHETICAL MINISTRY**  
**Module 63 (November, 14 2021) 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Cycle B**  
**Theme: Hope in the Midst of Trials**  
**Mk 13:24-32**



**INTRODUCTION**

Talk about personal stories on problems of difficulties encountered in life. How do you feel about it. What help you face it?

You may share stories of people you have seen or heard who have greater problems. Examples are those who are in places where there are wars, persecutions due to what they believe as Christians, they are killed for fighting for the truth and what is right and where people experience other kinds of trials and tribulations.

How do people normally respond when they feel that God is absent or has deserted them? Some may give in to despair and loss of faith and purpose, while others may find new purpose and meaning.

In today's reading let us see the images that Mark use to give us a picture of message that Jesus brings to those who suffer and those who have caused difficulty in people's lives.



**OPENING PRAYER**

God Our Father Creator of heaven and earth, You made all things good so that we may all share your happiness.  
 God the Son, our Savior You died to save us  
 May we feel your great love So that we may share the same love to others  
 Holy Spirit, our guide and light  
 Come, to us to lead us the way  
 To understand the holy Word of God  
 So that we live a fruitful life. Amen



**PHASE ONE**  
**REMEMBER THE STORY OF JESUS**

**1.1 Proclamation of the Gospel Story Mk 13:24-32**  
*Enthroned the Bible on a table with lighted candle)*

**A moment of prayerful silence**

*We will not be able to understand the Word of God unless God himself opens our hearts. Let us now welcome Jesus as he speaks to us through his Word*

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Be vigilant at all times

and pray that you have the strength to stand before the Son of Man.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.



**33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
 Hope in the midst of Trials

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark (Mk 13:24-32)

Jesus said to his disciples:  
 "In those days after that tribulation the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from the sky, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

"And then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in the clouds' with great power and glory, and then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the end of the earth to the end of the sky.

"Learn a lesson from the fig tree.

When its branch becomes tender and sprouts leaves, you know that summer is near.

In the same way, when you see these things happening, know that he is near, at the gates.

Amen, I say to you,

this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place.

Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But of that day or hour, no one knows,

neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."

*Reader: The Gospel of the Lord*

*All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*

**1.2 Brief Guided silent Meditation / Personal Prayer**

How struct you most in the Gospel reading today?

**Text in Context**

To better understand this text, it important to note the political background on Mark's Gospel was written. Most of the Bible experts on the Gospel of Mark agreed that Marl's Gospel was written for Christians living in or near Rome about 30 to 40 years after the death of Jesus. It was a time of political turmoil in Rome. Some Christians experienced persecution by the Romans during the reign of the emperor Nero (about 64 A.D.). Jewish revels fought against the Romans who turned back to them by destroying the Temple in Jerusalem in 70 A.D. In this time of political crisis and persecution, many in Mark's community might have wondered if the end times predicted by Jesus were quite near.

The beginning of Mark Chapter 13 (please read) where our Gospel Story is taken talks about the siege of Jerusalem, including the destruction of the Temple. A horrible devastation of the land and lives of peoples is imaginable. In this text, Jesus refers to this scene as tribulations

1. What does the word "tribulations" refer to at the beginning of Mark Chapter 13?

2. What signs does Jesus say will signal the end times? (the sun darkening, stars falling, the coming of the Son of Man)

3. Who will suddenly appear? ( The son of Man)

If you draw a picture of the "Son of Man appearing coming in the clouds' with great power and glory, what will it look like ?

4. Do you think we will be able to predict the end times? (may accept all reasonable answers.)

5. Who does Jesus say knows when these things will happen? (only God)

6. What does Jesus mean when he said Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away?

(Jesus does not want us to be frightened by these signs, nor does he want us to be fearful about the fact that the world will one day come to an end. Many things in the world may change, but Jesus' words to us and God's love for us will never change)



This Sunday is the second to last Sunday of our liturgical year. As we approach the end of the Church year, our Gospel invites us to consider Jesus' predictions and teaching about the end of the world.

Our Gospel story is a form of writing that belongs to *apocalyptic literature*. It talks about the end-time or when the world ends. This looks fearful but let us see its meaning in the time of Jesus and in our present time.

In Mark 13:1-13 we see a picture of tribulations or great trouble or suffering in images of wars, earthquakes, famines, persecutions and divisions even in families, confusions on false messiahs. After this event the heavenly bodies will also be greatly disturbed:

*the sun will be darkened,  
and the moon will not give its light,  
and the stars will be falling from the sky...*

Everything will stop in its natural course and will come to an end. Above all these signs, only the JUST ONE remains as he is. We will see *the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory (Mk 13: 26)*

Remember that this piece of Mark's was addressed to a new Christian Community. They are new converts (formerly pagans) who had just embraced to be the followers of Christ. They were the few among the people who followed Jesus. There were stronger people like the Jewish leaders who remained hard-hearted and the Roman government who persecuted them. These leaders saw this tiny group of Christians as a great threat to their ancient religion and Roman Empire. In the early time of New Testament, we know the story of St. Stephen and many others unknown Christians who died martyrs. They were stoned to death, beheaded, or thrown to the lion's den, burned at a stake alive.

Who would not fear for one's life? Nothing can console the early Christians except the Word of God.

Here Mark uses this imagery of destruction and signs of heaven to provide encouragement and hope to the new believers. Mark uses language that will help them not lose sight of Jesus Christ in the midst of great persecution. They were reminded that all things on earth like power, wealth, honor, persecution will die out. But the Word of God preached to them will never change and will come true not only on earth but even in life beyond.

In the today's First Reading from Daniel (12:1-3) we see the presence of God who is at the side of those being persecuted. The image of Michael, *the great prince, the guardian of the people*, who represents God shall come to their rescue. Those who died faithful to God *shall live forever, shall shine brightly, and shall be like the stars forever*.

What a consoling word to those who suffer because other's had been cruel to them.

God speaks to them in this manner:

*I know your pain and afflictions.*

*I am with you and care for you. T*

*The day will come when you will be given justice.*

Those who are obedient to God and live a just life seems to be the looser while on earth. In the life after death they will triumph because they will share the glory of God and will enjoy his eternal joy.

Recall an experience of pain and suffering. How did you face it? How did you see God in that event in your life?

Then a reverse will happen. Those who persecute the faithful followers of Christ, *shall be an everlasting horror and disgrace*. Who are they? They are those who disobeyed God. They are those who live a life of injustice, corruption, abuse of power to those who are poor and weak and helpless. They who thought that they will be triumphant will have never-ending defeat. They who control and manipulate the poor will have a bad end.

As Catholics, we firmly believe in the Second Coming of Jesus and profess it each Sunday during the Nicene Creed:

*I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ ... He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.*

This is a reality of our faith. we are created for God. but we have to give an account of the kind of life we lived while on earth. As believers, we do not focus on the tribulations or desolations.

We do not allow ourselves to be taken up by this anxiety of when or how will the world end. One is certain, **Jesus will come but we do not know the exact day and time.**

We focus on Christ who is NEAR us and WALKS with us in our daily life. Whatever suffering we are facing now, we carry it with trust in God. Christ, the Son of God also experienced suffering and humiliation on the Cross. But He is now seated at the right hand of God's Kingdom.

### PHASE THREE RESPOND – with/ in my personal faith /community faith story

The Philippines is one of the poorest countries in the world. Many Filipinos are suffering due to poverty. We may tend to say;

*"I am also helpless and has pain life." How could I help others in their own difficulty?*

With the message of hope we reflected today's reading, how can I help uplift the situation of the country.

Our country is preparing for the 2022 ELECTION in May. Can I see some hope on this? How can I be responsible on this big event? We know that Government leaders have a big part to play in the improvement of the lives of the people especially the poor. What will I do as Christian citizen of the country?

Who are the candidates who have the love for God and compassion for the people's lives?



### CLOSING PRAYER

#### Our lady of Hope of Palo

Pagampo ha Pagtikang

Langitnon nga Amay,

imo ginpakita an imo kalooy

dida han imo hinigugma nga Anak

nga nakiusa og nakig-unong ha amon

tungod han pagsugot han baraan nga Birhen Maria.

Nadaraon kami ha imo basi padilaabon ug pakusgon

an amon pagtoo ug pagtapod ha imo

nga amo ngahaw an nag-aghat han Mahal nga Birhen

hin pagkarawat han imo kaburo'on

ha butnga han mga pagruhaduha, kasakit ug kagupong.

Tungod hin mga pagsari ug kataragman nga inaatubang namon

ibubo ha amon an Espiritu han kabakod

nga imo ginhatag ha amon

pinaagi han amon gud la paglaum,

an imo Anak, hi Jesucristo, amon Ginoo,

nga buhi ug hadi ha dayon nga katuigan. Amen

#### BACKGROUND FOR THE CATECHISTS

**CCC 673** Since the Ascension Christ's coming in glory has been imminent, even though "it is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority.". This eschatological coming could be accomplished at any moment, even if both it and the final trial that will precede it are "delayed".

**CCC 1040** The Last Judgment will come when Christ returns in glory. Only the Father knows the day and the hour; only he determines the moment of its coming. Then through his Son Jesus Christ he will pronounce the final word on all history. We shall know the ultimate meaning of the whole work of creation and of the entire economy of salvation and understand the marvelous ways by which his Providence led everything towards its final end. The Last Judgment will reveal that God's justice triumphs over all the injustices committed by his creatures and that God's love is stronger than death

