

# Where's Your Chair?

Mark 13 9-23



Blessed are you, O Lord; O teach me your statutes.  
With my lips have I been telling of all the judgments of your mouth.  
Psalm 119:12-13

## **Praising:**

Lord, speak to me that I may  
speak  
in living echoes of your tone;  
as you have sought, so let me  
seek  
your wandering children, lost,  
alone.

O lead me, Lord, that I may lead  
the stumbling and the straying  
feet;  
and feed me, Lord, that I may  
feed  
your hungry ones with manna  
sweet.

## **Reading:**

Mark 13:9-23  
The desolating sacrilege

What abomination in the temple  
is Jesus talking about? The Jews  
at that time had two expectations.  
Firstly, that a Messiah would  
come to rescue God's chosen

nation from its foreign  
oppressors. But secondly they  
foresaw the emergence of a  
power who would be the very  
embodiment of evil and gather to  
himself everything that was  
against God. Jesus is saying that  
when this latter power gets as far  
as the temple, those who value  
their lives would be well-advised  
to flee. In due course Jerusalem  
fell to the besieging army of  
Emperor Titus in 70 AD. When  
that happened those who  
crowded into the city for safety  
died by the hundred thousand. It  
was a human catastrophe Jesus  
clearly foresaw, and one he  
warned the disciples about in  
graphic terms – hoping obviously  
that they would listen and be  
ready.

## **Listening:**

## **Praying:**

Conscious of the times Jesus  
lived in Lord we pray for

- the warring nations of the  
world, borders disputed,  
peoples set against each  
another
- those lands where order is  
fragile, where authority is  
corrupt, where justice is cheap
- the places where natural  
disasters have undermined  
stability, infrastructure and  
peace

Father: when I get into a rut of  
thinking about faith in self-  
centred terms, open my eyes to  
the stresses and strains of the  
world all around me that reveal  
good and evil in combat. Amen

## **Doing:**

Monday, 14 December 2015