



APC Advent Devotional – December 19th, 2020

So this is Christmas

Today's Scripture: Luke 21:29-36 (NIV)

Maybe it's just me. Or maybe others have experienced it, too. It was the third Sunday of Advent. I watched the news and afterwards the lively discussions on a talk show, and I felt a bit anxious. That day the German government announced a lockdown again. But the restriction will be loosened a bit from Christmas Eve to the second day of Christmas. So a gathering with family members will be possible. Some experts are against it, but some agree, and the minister presidents of the states were just trying their best to stop the spread of COVID-19. It is safe to say, nobody wants a pandemic. But who really knows **the true way** to stop it?

Today's Scripture foretells that many things will happen before the day comes when we will stand "before the Son of Man." (Verse 36, NIV) The scripture also warns that we should not let our hearts "be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on [us] suddenly like a trap." (Verse 34) So we have to **watch out** and at the same time **be patient** even as we face challenges, problems and difficulties.

But with this, God also gives us a promise: "Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near" (Verse 31). What a relief to know that **God awaits us** at the end of the long and weary road.

Actually, watching that talk show was not bad after all. At end of the discussion, one of the experts reminded everyone that Christmas is the "feast of love". So whatever you do in this time of pandemic, **do it out of love** for everyone. Just like Jesus came down to us, because He loves us.