

# Advent 1

## Luke 21:25–36

21:25 There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves.

21:26 People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

**Name:** Good morning everyone, it's great to be here this morning. I sure felt the change in temperature this week. I hope Robbie is getting out his woolies; I know his castle can get pretty chilly sometimes! Let's call him out and see what's up. 1, 2, 3, *Robbie!*

**Robbie:** I don't know?

**Name:** Don't know what, Robbie?

**Robbie:** I didn't know whether or not to come out of my castle this morning.

**Name:** Why's that, Robbie?

**Robbie:** Well, the gospel lesson this morning.

**Name:** Oh, I think I understand. The gospel reading, which talked about the temple being turned upside down.

**Robbie:** More like blown up!

**Name:** And wars, and earthquakes...

**Robbie:** Famines and plagues...

**Name:** Getting arrested and thrown in jail.

**Robbie:** Why can't we just sing *Jingle Bells*? Or watch the Santa Claus parade?

**Name:** Well, Robbie, we can certainly do those things. But Jesus was telling his friends that sometimes life would be uncertain and difficult.

**Robbie:** Boy, he sure did.

**Name:** Jesus didn't want to tell his friends that everything in life would be easy. He said there will be times when bad things happen.

**Robbie:** Well I don't know about you, but now I'm pretty freaked out!

**Name:** I understand that, Robbie, but Jesus also told his friends to be prepared for when bad things happen.

## Dragon Talks

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**Robbie:** Okay, well let's make sure we've got extra insurance on the castle!

**Name:** Well...

**Robbie:** And let's make sure we've got lots of bottled water in the basement...

**Name:** Well...

**Robbie:** And canned goods, let's make sure we've got lots canned goods, especially Alpha-Getti. I love Alpha-Getti.

**Name:** Well...

**Robbie:** And candles, we've got to stock up on candles, or even better a generator...

**Name:** Robbie!

**Robbie:** What?

**Name:** You're getting yourself all worked up!

**Robbie:** Well *ya!* Didn't you hear what Jesus said?

**Name:** I did, Robbie, and I heard Jesus also remind us not to be terrified when we hear rumours that these things are going to happen.

**Robbie:** But...

**Name:** But prepare ourselves for when we face difficult situations.

**Robbie:** Like the generator, the insurance, the candles, and the canned goods...

**Name:** Robbie, Jesus was also telling us to prepare our hearts and our minds for difficult times.

**Robbie:** Well, how do we do that?

**Name:** Remember when Jesus taught us to love one another, to forgive each other?

**Robbie:** Uh huh.

**Name:** Remember Jesus' teaching us to care for one another, those who are close to us and even strangers?

**Robbie:** Uh huh.

**Name:** Well, Robbie, when we do these things, we prepare ourselves, so when difficult times happen we're not alone.

**Robbie:** Oh, it's like the time when my castle fell down and friends let me stay at their house.

**Name:** That's right, Robbie. People's hearts and minds were prepared to help you.

**Robbie:** I was sure grateful!

**Name:** That's right, Robbie. You know this week there was a terrible hurricane in the Philippines. People died and many people are without food, or water, or shelter, and we are helping.

**Robbie:** How are we helping? The Philippines are a long, long way away.

**Name:** That's true, Robbie, but our congregation, (insert church name), and lots of other congregations in our denomination and in other denominations too, are providing aid to those people.

**Robbie:** So our hearts and minds were prepared to care for others in difficulty.

**Name:** That's right, Robbie, so there is no need to worry. If we all prepare our hearts and minds to love and care for one another, we can handle just about anything!

**Name:** Robbie, where are you going?

**Robbie:** I've got to call and cancel that generator!

**Name:** It's good thing we're all called to be generators of care for one another. Amen.