

“The end of the world is coming soon. Therefore, be earnest and disciplined in your prayers. Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins.” 1 Peter 4:7-8 NLT

## lectio // 1 Peter 4:7-11

Peter really did think it was the end of the world, do you blame him? Jesus said it would be soon, their world was falling apart. The great Roman empire was collapsing all around them and yet still persecution was at its height! To him, it was over and everything God had told them would take place in THEIR LIFETIME. Sound familiar? Yeah, it's a little cyclical to what we read about in history and some have experienced in their life. The world has always been super chaotic and humans have, at times, been even more sadistically destructive than now. One evil empire, one global disaster after another. And... we're still here. Now after this last round of a viral, global pandemic with world economic collapses everywhere, we might think similarly. And maybe this is the end. Peter makes a much stronger point here - so how are we going to treat people as the world ends? That's a great question. How do I treat people when my entire world begins to crumble? Maybe it's my job, family, finances or government? I notice he doesn't write about surviving, he writes about caring for others! His advise, "Cheerfully share your home with those who need a meal or a place to stay. God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another." What? While things are in total chaos and collapsing all around you, be really good to each other (and by extension, to others outside the faith). That is so COUNTER INTUITIVE. That is so COUNTER CULTURAL! That is Christianity. Why? Because what we have now, what we are experiencing now is temporary. It is a beautiful, painful season of living on this dark planet. But it is a SEASON and it will soon pass.

## oratio

Dad,

When Peter wrote, the end is coming soon it really helped set some perspective. The world did not end. This present pandemic maybe signs of the end, it may not. Either way, I have a responsibility to behave in a way that matches my belief. You are still eternal, and I as a created soul, am just passing through. However, because I was born into sin and I am completely responsible for my own choices and behaviors, I MUST live as someone who has been changed, redeemed from my trashed past and will live with you forever. I cannot fathom forever, but I do understand the love and forgiveness you've shown me. The LEAST I can do is pass that on while I'm here. Help me live as a sojourner, being kind to all those who journey, but with keeping my eyes on the real life ahead.

## contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root