

**H.C. Buxworth**  
**15.11.15**

**PSALM 16**  
**MARK 13:1-13**

## SECURITY

The first lines of psalm 16 are very striking: *'keep me safe, O God, for in you I take refuge. I said to the Lord "you are my Lord. Apart from you I have no good thing"'*

The writer is King David. In this psalm you get the feeling that things are good: *you have made my lot secure....the boundary lines have fallen in pleasant places....you've made known to me the path of life....*

But why does life seem good? After all in plenty of other psalms, David writes about being surrounded by enemies, wondering how long things will be bad.

It is that sense of finding security in God: *„because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken (v.8) therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices, my body also will rest secure... and even at the end of it all you will fill me with joy at your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.*

This man had to face so much but his security was firmly placed in God, not in his own military prowess or his talent or his position or his reputation or his family. All those could let him down but God would not.

Jesus wants to speak about security to. He has words of warning and encouragement for his disciples when they're doing something as seemingly innocent as looking at a fine building and being impressed by it. *This is going to be destroyed...nation will rise against nation...there will be earthquakes and famines.. be on your guard....even families will turn against each other.*

Could there ever be a more appropriate reading for this weekend in the light of the terror attacks in Paris? Nation against nation, buildings destroyed, unexpected disasters. In the last year we've heard about families being

distraught to find that their son or daughter has been caught up in fighting against their own people.

People in Europe are said to be panicked and frightened....if it can happen to them, it could happen to us.

Where is our security? It can only be in the same place as King David's security – rooted in God himself. Jesus is quite clear that there will be disasters to face that will shake the ground under people's feet and shake faith in each other. Christians in particular will be afraid to stand up and be counted.

But, says Jesus, the gospel must be preached and he who stands firm to the end will be saved.

There may be a time when you or I are rocked by losing something or someone we've relied on; there may be a time when a shattering event makes us afraid; there may be a time when health or work or friends or position no longer help.

The security we have then to rely on is the same that David relied on, the same that Jesus urged: security in God and his promises for a path to eternal life, through trust in the resurrection of Jesus himself.