



Lent Reflections Week 6 - *Jesus predicts his death and Resurrection*

³² They were on their way up to Jerusalem, with Jesus leading the way, and the disciples were astonished, while those who followed were afraid. Again he took the Twelve aside and told them what was going to happen to him. ³³ “We are going up to Jerusalem,” he said, “and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles, ³⁴ who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise.”

Mark 10:32-34

Coming towards the last week of Lent we are approaching Palm Sunday, when Jesus entered Jerusalem. This is sometimes called “The Triumphant Entry”. I have sometimes thought of this period as “The Countdown to Calvary”.

Jesus was heading towards Jerusalem coming from Jericho, known as the “City of Palms”, which is down in the Jordan valley, well below sea level. He and the disciples would have been making the torturous journey of about 17 miles climbing up the ancient road to the Holy City which was 2500 feet above sea level. They would have been travelling through the desolate and rocky landscape which had been the backdrop to Jesus’ parable of the Good Samaritan.

While they were on their way Jesus tells them that he is going to be betrayed, condemned and killed. But three days later he would rise again. It was a sort of summary of the events of Holy Week and Easter. The odd thing is that his friends did not really seem to get it, even though this is the third time he had told them. (See also Matthew 20:17-19 and Luke 18:31-34) The real meaning seems to have been hidden from them, but they would certainly learn what Jesus meant as the events of Holy Week unfolded.

Maybe they had difficulty in believing that Jesus’ death could be part of a definite plan of God, a vocation, of which Jesus was well aware.

There are several hints about his death in John’s gospel as well.

In John’s gospel 14:29, after one of these hints Jesus says: ***“I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe.”***

So the scene is set for what is perhaps the most important week in history; the week which would seal the destiny of humanity.

I am reprinting the same prayer as we had last week. It is the most appropriate.

Prayer

***Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ
delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross
and who rose from the dead on the third day,
we may triumph in the power of his victory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen.***