

Journey to Easter –

Thursday, February 25 (Day 9)

Mark 8:31–38 NIV
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Jesus Predicts His Death

He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. “Get behind me, Satan!” he said. “You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

The Way of the Cross

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.”

Discussion

“Ain’t I a woman?” These famous words, spoken by Sojourner Truth to the Ohio Women’s Rights Convention in 1851, were packed with so much courage and truth. Where did this courage come from? It was eight years earlier, in 1843, when she heard the call of God on her life and exclaimed to her friends, “The Spirit calls me, and I must go.” She packed up her possessions in a pillowcase and hit the road, preaching about the abolition of slavery. She was willing to lose her life for the sake of God’s liberation because she knew that none would be free until and unless all were free. God is calling you to this same liberation project. Can you hear the call? Do you trust that one who has undergone great suffering has paved the way for abundant life on the other side of your fear? In the losing of one’s own attachment to self-preservation is where God’s salvation can truly be found.

Today’s Prayer

God, you are calling us to freedom. Liberate us that we might be liberators.

You are calling us to compassion. Love us that we might be lovers.

You are calling us to generosity. Bless us that we might be blessers.

You are calling us to grace. Forgive us that we might be forgivers.

You are calling us to wholeness. Heal us that we might be healers.

God, you are calling us to freedom. May we hear your call. Amen.

Source: Luther Seminary St. Paul, MN
– 2021 Lenten Devotions

Awesome Mystery

Image: Roslyn shared a photo of “The Hill of Crosses” in Lithuania. This is a site of pilgrimage about 12 km north of the city of Šiauliai, in northern Lithuania.

