

Journey to Easter - Friday, February 26 (Day 10) Mark 8:31–38

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

You ruined “my life.”
I had power
and privilege. I
had beauty
and blessing.
You called me to
leave it behind. It was
terrifying.

You told me to
come and die. How
scary is that
proposition?
I tiptoed forward and then retreated.
I inched toward it, and then
backed away. You challenged me
with a gracious invitation. I let go.
And then grasped for control
again. You told me that loss was
the only real gain. “Couldn’t there
be another way?” I wondered. But
you continued inviting.
I finally gave up “my life” that I
had built for myself.
I let go like you asked.
And you completely ruined “my life.”
In these ruins were where true life
was found. And it was glorious!

Today’s Prayer

*Jesus, ruin “our lives” so that we
may discover new life in you.*

*Destroy our temporary false
security with your eternal safety.*

*Shatter our ego’s desires with the
desire to serve you alone.*

Ruin our fear with your courage

*And rebuild our hearts of hate with
your love and endless compassion.*

Amen.

Source: *Luther Seminary St. Paul, MN
2021 Lenten Devotional “Awesome
Mystery”*

Image: Submitted by the Cowells. The full crucifix was a gift from Deb’s brother, it was hand carved in southern Germany and is very special to me and hangs in our dining room. It has several palm branches that were from St. Paul’s Palm Sunday services.

Awesome Mystery

