

## Turning to the Cross - Ash Wednesday 2021

Mark 10: 32— 34; Luke 9:51

Introduction — what did you do yesterday on “Fat Tuesday”? “Fat Tuesday” (French: Mardi Gras ) = the day before Ash Wednesday. So— we want to look at the gospel of Mark’s version, to the decision that Jesus told the disciples about— the decision to go to Jerusalem.

### I. What is “Lent”???

1) We celebrate Lent because it gives us 40 days to remember that Jesus was not surprised by the events in Jerusalem on the days before Passover. Jesus was not surprised by his suffering, and by the cross.

2) In our reading, Mark ch. 10, Jesus knew exactly what he faced in Jerusalem — betrayal, condemnation, beatings . . . . . And, death.

3) Luke also tells us that Jesus knew what he was doing— yet, he “resolutely set his face toward Jerusalem.”

Jesus knew what he faced there — he knew he would be sacrificed for our sins. Told his disciples...

### II. from Lent to the cross

1) For what is a telephone pole used? It supports telephone lines... And what are they? They are: lines of communication! What shape does it have? The shape needed to accomplish its function — to support the lines of communication.

2) What about Lent? What is its use?? What does it communicate??

3) Lent gives us 40 days to consider that the cross was God’s communication of his love— that despite the problem of sin, he loves us and is willing to suffer himself to solve the problem of sin....

4) What is the shape of Lent?? It is in the shape of the cross . . .the shape needed to accomplish its function — for Jesus to suffer and spread his arms to all people . . . .

(Spread your arms . . .)

Conclusion —

Let us remember the choice of Jesus, to go to Jerusalem and give himself for each of us. And remember the shape of the cross: — so Jesus could spread his arms and reach out to all people . .

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